



# **A Patient-Centered Approach to Medicine for the Terminally-Ill**

*Irene S. Switankowsky*

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Given our aging population, there will sadly be an increasing number of terminally-ill patients over the next ten to twenty years. *A Patient-Centered Approach to Medicine for the Terminally-Ill* explains that a more humane patient-centered approach is necessary to ensure that terminally-ill patients are cared for effectively at the end of life. It is a well-known fact that terminally-ill patients are very difficult to care for by their physicians and other medical specialists, and paternalism is no longer a viable way of caring for the terminally-ill.

In this book, Switankowsky argues that there are five conditions for physicians to bring about patient-centered medicine. These are: effective physician-patient disclosure of treatments, successful decision-making, effective communication, development of effective physician-patient relationships, and advance directives. By following these five necessary conditions, physicians could ensure that all terminally-ill patients die with some degree of dignity and are given essential, humane care until the end of their days.

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