



Guide for Presenters

Thank you for partnering with the Academy of Aid-in-Dying Medicine in our Presenters Network.. By sharing your knowledge and experience, you help us equip clinicians with practical, evidence-based best practices. We hope this guide and our ongoing collaboration will support you as you teach. Don't hesitate to reach out to us any time.

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Crucial messages when representing the Academy

- The Academy is a clinical teaching organization.
- We don't advocate for or against aid in dying, or lobby for new laws. Rather, we believe that patients who are considering or completing aid in dying should receive the best, most knowledgeable care possible.
- Our mission is to develop and promote evidence-based best practices in the new and growing field of aid-in-dying medicine.
- We ensure that providers are informed, competent, and compliant with all aid-in-dying laws.
- We support improved access to quality care by advancing knowledge within all practice models—hospices, independent providers, and healthcare systems.
- We support an interdisciplinary team approach, with clinicians from all disciplines collaborating closely and ensuring warm handoffs throughout the patient's care.

Presentation style

1. Know your audience, what they need, and what they don't yet know they need

- Find out who will be in the room (physicians, nurses, social workers, spiritual care providers, doulas, hospice teams, community members, or a mixed audience).
- Identify what they want to know and deliver that content early and clearly.
- Offer something extra: insights or perspectives they did not know they needed.
- Illustrate generously with case histories, or stories from your practice or others'.
- Leave ample time for questions so the audience can connect your content to their own situations.
- Provide links or QR codes to the Academy's and other resources, sources you cite, and additional information (the Academy can guide you to resources and provide QR codes).

2. Use direct, clear language

- Minimize acronyms. Use "The Academy" instead of "AADM," and "medical aid in dying" instead of "MAID."
- Avoid "medicalese" and insider expressions: "I attended the ingestion," focuses on one singular moment. "I was there on the aid-in-dying day," provides a more complete picture.
- Use precise language that shows you are comfortable with aid-in-dying events and results: "The patient died..." rather than "passed on" or other euphemisms.

- Remember that we work with “a patient considering aid in dying” rather than “an aid-in-dying patient.”

3. Best practices for slides — avoid Death by PowerPoint

- Avoid text-dense, small-font slides that audiences will try to read and get distracted from what you’re saying.
- Use simple, clean graphics. Slides are more interesting as graphics that support your speech, not literal reproductions of what you’re saying.
- Do not use fonts smaller than 28 point.
- Avoid reading from your slides. Speak spontaneously whenever possible; that demonstrates your expertise. Some find it helpful to use a printed list of bullet points for each slide.
- Aim for roughly three main comments per slide.
- Whenever possible, maintain eye contact with your audience rather than your slides.

5. For Zoom presentations, do a tech check in advance

- DO NOT attempt to Screen Share a PowerPoint deck from within Google Drive. Download all PowerPoints directly to your computer, find them there, and play them using Screen Share.
- Test your slides, audio, video, internet connection, screen sharing, and any videos or links. What you see on your screen may not be what viewers see on theirs.
- Log in 15 minutes early and confirm that your microphone, camera, speakers, and screen-sharing settings are working properly.

6. Making Zoom sessions feel alive

- Zoom presentations can feel like you’re a Zombie speaking into a void. If possible, ask a few people to leave their cameras on, so you can see their faces. If they can’t or won’t do that, imagine you’re talking to your best friend, and they’re leaning in, hanging on your every word, and occasionally applauding.
- Share slides in full-screen or presentation mode so they are clean and easy to read.
- Stop screen sharing during Q&A so you can see faces and respond more directly.
- If possible and appropriate, pause regularly for chat questions or raised hands.
- Keep your tone warm and engaged, even if the room feels flat.

The Academy leaders are happy to help! We can provide support and materials.

- See our PowerPoint demonstration of how to introduce the Academy.
- We have materials to share: full Academy-style decks with speaker notes that you can harvest from, and an audience handout you can share before or after your presentation.
- We can provide you with links and QR codes to the Academy’s and all other resources
- We’re happy to help with graphics or to meet with you one-on-one to help develop your presentation.

Thank you so much for presenting on behalf of the Academy of Aid-in-Dying Medicine. Your time and expertise support our mission to ensure that patients considering or completing aid in dying receive skilled, compassionate, well-informed care. We are grateful to partner with you in this important work.