

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD): information for RNs and LPNs staff

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

Medical assistance in dying (MAiD) is a legal option in Canada that allows eligible patients to ask for medical help to end their life. When individuals are considering a medically assisted death (MAiD), questions and strong feelings can often be felt by everyone involved, including the patient considering MAiD, family, friends, and health care providers.

Health PEI is committed to ensuring access to MAiD information and to facilitating access to MAiD assessments and procedures across PEI. Patients and families/primary support person(s) are supported through the provision on information and patient-centered care during all phases of the MAiD process.

Throughout the process of MAiD, whether individuals are interested in education alone, or assessments, the Prince Edward Island MAiD team of doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, spiritual care providers, pharmacists and other health care workers are prepared to support the patient as well as their community of family and friends. At any time in the process, the patient can change their mind altogether or put their plans for MAiD on hold.

Individuals requesting MAiD will receive MAiD assessments and procedures (if eligible) at a location of their choosing, including publicly funded long term care homes and community care facilities, health care centres, as well as hospitals on PEI.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- Patients who express interest in education or assessments for MAiD should not experience any negative impacts within the healthcare system which could impact their care.
- Health PEI recognizes that no healthcare provider should face stigma or disadvantages for having participated or not participated in providing MAiD.
- Access to MAiD is a right for individuals in Canada, and it is also a right for a practitioner to refuse participation (conscientious objection). Conscientious objectors must; not impede access to MAiD, inform the patient the objection is due to personal reasons and not clinical reasons, provide information regarding all options of care that meets the patient's needs, not abandon care, and make an effective referral to someone who will help with the MAiD request.
- Health PEI promotes care that respects personal autonomy and self-determination. Health PEI recognizes that decision making can be complex and involve discussions with family members or other people within the patient's circle of care. Health PEI policy ensures that a patient's decision to have MAiD is free from coercion or influence.

- Health PEI acknowledges that all healthcare providers, including those providing MAiD, conforms to the Health Information Act regarding confidentiality for patients and their families/primary support persons.
- As per federal legislation, any healthcare providers (including nurses) can act as an independent witness on MAiD forms unless they know or believe they are a beneficiary under the will of the person making the request, or a recipient in any other way, of a financial or other material benefit resulting from that person's death or be an owner, operator or administrator of any health care facility at which the person making the request is being treated.
- It is legal and appropriate to raise the option of MAiD if appropriate in the context of a goals of care discussion. It is acceptable to inform an individual about the option of MAiD, but it is not acceptable to recommend MAiD to any individual.
- MAiD information for staff and patient can be found on the Health PEI MAiD website <https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/medical-assistance-in-dying>
- The MAiD team can be contacted at:

Medical Assistance in Dying PEI

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