



Date: May 11, 2016

To: All Manitoba RHAs for distribution internally
Manitoba Health
CancerCare Manitoba

From: Provincial MAID Clinical Team

Subject: **Proposed Legislation for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)**

Since the Supreme Court of Canada opened the door to Medical Assistance in Dying three months ago, the provincial MAID clinical team has fielded numerous requests for information on MAID from patients, their families and health care providers. We expect federal legislation to be introduced next month which will provide further clarification and direction on MAID. The WRHA is also in the process of developing a website and printed material to ensure accessible and clear information is available on this topic going forward. Given the increased and ongoing demand for information, we feel it valuable to reiterate the process currently in place to ensure interested parties have the information they require during this interim period.

Physicians and other health care providers who are approached by patients or their families seeking information on MAID should:

- Connect with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) in their facility who will then contact Dr. Brock Wright, Senior Vice-President, Clinical Services & Chief Medical Officer of the WRHA to connect with the patient directly.

At this point, no health provider is compelled to offer the service of MAID, however all physicians in Manitoba must provide any patient requesting the service with timely access to an accurate resource such as the contact information for the Provincial MAID Clinical Team (204.926.1380 OR Maid@wrha.mb.ca). A new website will also be a resource for MAID information. We will share details and a link with you as soon as it's finalized. Additional information is also available at: www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/news/2016/160315-maid-frequently-asked-questions.php.

The current process to be followed for requests for MAID requires:

- Interested patients must obtain legal representation. The MAID team can provide the names of lawyers if desired, some of whom may consider providing their services free of charge. Please note the medical assessments must be completed prior to court application
- Assessments and affidavits by a minimum of two (2) physicians regarding the patient's eligibility for MAID; their competency to make medical decision; and their consent for the procedure. One (1) of these physicians must be willing to perform the procedure.
- Medical assessments include a review of the patient's medical records as well as the possibility of further tests +/- consultations.
- Assessments can be conducted at the patient's home, a clinic or in hospital.

- After the assessments, affidavits on behalf of the patient are filed in court seeking permission to proceed with MAID.
- A court hearing determines whether the request is granted. To date, these proceedings have been sealed so identifying information on the patient and their health care providers has been maintained confidential.
- Once court permission is granted, the patient works with the MAID team to determine when/if to proceed with the procedure and where the procedure will be performed. Written consent from the patient is required prior to the completion of the procedure.

It is important for all care providers across Manitoba to be aware of how the process works and their individual responsibilities during the interim before the legislation is passed. Please review this information and share or post as appropriate with your program, site or professional team.

If you would like information to better inform your practice or would like to share information with us electronically, please use the maid@wrha.mb.ca email address that has been set up for this purpose.

Thank you,

Manitoba's Provincial MAID Clinical Team