

Medical Assistance in Dying

The Patient and Caregiver Journey



The Patient's Journey

- * Pre contemplative

- * Contemplative

- * Determination

- * Action

- * Care After Death

AHS Expert Panel, 2015

Pre Contemplative

Patient explores options

- * Webpages, friends, family and media
- * Staff encourage patient to speak with their Primary Care practitioner and/or healthcare team about all options available to them.

Contemplative

Patient is thinking seriously about MAiD and is seeking more specific info

- * written or oral request to a health care provider regarding MAiD and end of life care
- * This is the invitation to engage in a therapeutic conversation to discuss their fears, needs, and wants

Contemplative

- * 9 out of 10 individuals who request this conversation do not to proceed with MAiD after a more fulsome discussion of their alternatives.
- * How will you respond to this invitation?

Contemplative

If your personal beliefs and values do not support MAiD then the appropriate response is,

” I am not comfortable discussing this topic, but I can arrange for someone else to answer your questions.”

Contemplative

- * You should not discuss in detail your personal beliefs and should not pressure patients to disclose or justify their own beliefs.
- * Why not?
- * Consider what it means to behave as a professional.

CMA Code of Ethics, 2004

Fundamental Responsibilities

1. Consider first the well-being of the patient.
2. Practise the profession of medicine in a manner that treats the patient with dignity and as a person worthy of respect.

Canadian Nurses Association, 2008

1. Providing safe, compassionate, competent and ethical care
2. Promoting and respecting informed decision-making
3. Preserving dignity
4. Maintaining **privacy** and **confidentiality**

College of Pharmacists of BC, 2007

Standard 3: Registrants Practice Respect for Patients

Guidelines for Application

- a) Registrants respect the value and dignity of patients.
- b) Registrants respect the patient's autonomy and freedom of choice.
- c) Registrants recognize the power imbalance inherent in professional relationships (registrant-patient relationship) and maintain appropriate professional boundaries.

College of Pharmacists of BC, 2007

Standard 3: Registrants Practice Respect for Patients (con't)

e) Registrants treat patients with sensitivity, caring, courtesy and respect.

f) Registrants provide pharmacy care that is respectful of the values, customs and beliefs of patients.

g) Registrants ensure that their personal beliefs and values do not prejudice patient care and do not engage in discrimination based on age, gender identity, race,

Ethical Behaviour

- * All health professional codes of ethics speak to respecting the dignity and autonomy of the individual
- * How will you demonstrate respect for the dignity and autonomy of your patient when you are asked?

Determination

Formal documentation phase begins using provincial documents and adhering to standards

- * Health Authority policies and College Standards
- * MAiD Care Co-ordination Centre become involved if an 'effective transfer' of care is requested or process support is required for the assessor or the patient

Determination

- * While the patient is being assessed we still have a duty to continue providing regular care in a manner that respects the patient's dignity
- * We do not abandon the patient
- * Remember most patient's will not proceed to MAiD

Determination

- * Sometimes knowing that there is a 'way out' returns enough control to the patient that they can manage
- * Those that do choose MAiD should still be treated in a respectful manner
- * Understand the formal Assessment process
- * Feel free to contact your insurer or College to make sure you understand your professional obligations
- * Work collaboratively to assess and support the patient and their significant others

Action

Patient proceeds through the process...

- * coordination of the MAiD procedure begins
- * determine location, timing, who will be present.

It is important for the patient and family...

- * to plan out the journey
- * to say goodbye
- * to witness the last question

After Death Care

Formal Supports:

- * for family/caregivers through MSP
- * for providers through Wellness Programs and the Physician Health Program

Informal Supports:

- * a trusted colleague you can share with
- * take care of yourself emotionally, physically, and spiritually
- * remember it is okay to ask for help

Quality Review

A sec 51 protected quality review will be performed after MAiD has occurred in a Health Authority facility or program.