

## What is Medical Assistance in Dying?

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) means that an eligible patient is administered medication by a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, at their request, that causes their death. Alternatively, the MAID procedure can be completed by a medical practitioner for an eligible patient by prescribing or providing a substance to a person, at their request, so that they may self-administer the substance and in doing so cause their own death<sup>1</sup>.

## When did Medical Assistance in Dying Become Available in Canada?

Doctors and nurse practitioners in Ontario can now provide medical assistance in dying. Federal legislation passed on June 17, 2016, guides how Ontario's doctors and nurse practitioners are allowed to provide this option.

## How are Palliative Care and Medical Assistance in Dying Related?

Medical assistance in dying does not change how Ontario patients with life-limiting illness access other medical treatments, including palliative care<sup>2</sup>. Based on the experience of other countries, only a small number of Ontarians will choose to access medical assistance in dying. Patients who request information about or who pursue medical assistance in dying will still receive palliative care and other treatments in accordance with their goals of care.

## What is the Cost to Receive Medical Assistance in Dying?

This service is covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) and drugs required for medical assistance in dying will be available at no cost.

## Where is Medical Assistance in Dying Available?

You can ask to receive medical assistance in dying no matter where you live or receive care including a hospital, long-term care home, hospice, palliative care facility or your home. Some facilities may choose not to provide medical assistance in dying or have limitations on how they provide it. Facilities are encouraged to make this information available, so you know your options.

## How Do I Access Medical Assistance in Dying?

### Talk to your doctor or nurse practitioner

If you are suffering from a grievous and irremediable medical condition, you can talk to your doctor or nurse practitioner about your options for treatment and care. These options may now include medical assistance in dying. If you're already in a hospital or long-term care home, speak to your doctor or care provider about your options.

While some doctors or nurse practitioners may choose not to be involved in medical assistance in dying, they must follow professional requirements set by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario<sup>3</sup> and the College of Nurses of Ontario<sup>4</sup>. In this situation, your doctor or nurse practitioner will refer you to another practitioner to assess your eligibility for MAID and to provide MAID, if you are eligible.

In Waterloo Wellington, you can also access information about and/or a referral to providers who can support your request for MAID by calling 310-CCAC (2222) or calling the provincial MAID Care Coordination Service @ 1-866-286-4023. Finally, more information about MAID can be found on the MOHLTC website (click [here](#)).

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Sourced from <https://www.ontario.ca/page/medical-assistance-dying-and-end-life-decisions#section-1> on January 18, 2017

<sup>1</sup> Bill C-14. <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?Language=E&Mode=1&DocId=8384014>

<sup>2</sup> Palliative care is an approach that improves the quality of life of patients and their families facing the problem associated with life-threatening illness, through the prevention and relief of suffering by means of early identification and impeccable assessment and treatment of pain and other problems, physical, psychosocial and spiritual. (<http://www.who.int/cancer/palliative/definition/en/>)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.cpso.on.ca/Policies-Publications/Policy/Medical-Assistance-in-Dying>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.cno.org/en/trending-topics/medical-assistance-in-dying/>