

STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

Under Review: No

Issued By: Council: June 1, 2016

The *Standards of Practice* of the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta (“CPSA”) are the **minimum** standards of professional behavior and ethical conduct expected of all regulated members registered in Alberta. Standards of Practice are enforceable under the *Health Professions Act* and will be referenced in the management of complaints and in discipline hearings. CPSA also provides **Advice to the Profession** to support the implementation of the Standards of Practice.

1. A regulated member who receives, considers or fulfils a written request for medical assistance in dying **must** do so in accordance with legislation.
2. A regulated member who provides medical assistance in dying **must**:
 - a. discuss and agree on a plan with the patient that considers:
 - i. the patient’s wishes regarding when, where and how the medical assistance in dying will be provided, including the presence of the regulated member and any additional support;
 - ii. an alternate plan to address potential complications; and
 - iii. the patient’s choice to rescind the request at any time, including immediately before the provision of medical assistance in dying;
 - b. collaborate with the pharmacist dispensing the medication(s); and
 - c. after the patient’s death, notify the [Office of the Chief Medical Examiner](#)¹.
3. A regulated member who receives an inquiry from a patient with respect to medical assistance in dying **must** ensure that contact information for the Alberta Health Services [medical assistance in dying care coordination service](#)

¹ The regulated member will not sign the death certificate. The Chief Medical Examiner will determine the cause and manner of death.

Terms used in the Standards of Practice:

- “Regulated member” means any person who is registered or who is required to be registered as a member of this College. The College regulates physicians, surgeons and osteopaths.
- “Must” refers to a mandatory requirement.
- “May” means that the physician may exercise reasonable discretion.
- “Patient” includes, where applicable, the patient’s legal guardian or substitute decision maker.

- is provided to the patient, or to another person identified by the patient, without delay.
4. A regulated member who receives an oral or written request from a patient for medical assistance in dying and who declines for reasons of [conscience](#) or religion to provide or to aid in providing medical assistance in dying **must** ensure that reasonable access to the Alberta Health Services medical assistance in dying care coordination service is provided to the patient without delay.
 5. A regulated member **may** prescribe a drug for use in medical assistance in dying only if the drug has been recommended for the use by the Alberta Health Services medical assistance in dying care coordination service.
 6. A regulated member who provides medical assistance in dying **must** keep records in the form and manner required by the Minister confirming that the requirements of these standards, and any other standards or legislation applicable to medical assistance in dying, were met.
 7. A regulated member who provides medical assistance in dying **must**, without delay, provide a member of the [Medical Assistance in Dying Regulatory Review Committee](#) designated by the Committee with copies of the records referred to in clause (6).
 8. In these standards, “medical assistance in dying” means:
 - a. the administering by a regulated member of a substance to a person, at their request, that causes their death; or
 - b. the prescribing or providing by a regulated member of a substance to a person, at their request, so that they may self-administer the substance and in doing so cause their own death.

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RELATED STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- [Code of Ethics & Professionalism](#)
- [Conscientious Objection](#)
- [Informed Consent](#)

COMPANION RESOURCES

- [Advice to the Profession: Informed Consent for Adults](#)
- [Advice to the Profession: Informed Consent for Minors](#)
- [Advice to the Profession: Medical Assistance in Dying](#)
- [Medication Protocols as of July 2019](#) – please review “Additional Resources” in the Physician Portal (requires regulated member login credentials to access)
- [AHS’s Medical Assistance in Dying](#)
- [CMA’s Online Module](#)
- [AH’s Guide to Capacity Assessments under the Personal Directives Act](#)
- [CMPA’s What the legislation on medical assistance in dying means for physicians in Canada](#)
- [CMPA’s Good Practices: Informed Consent Overview and Objectives](#)
- [MAID Combined Assessor Provider Form – Electronic](#)
- [MAID Combined Assessor Provider Form – Printable](#)
- [MAID Provider Form – Electronic](#)
- [MAID Provider Form – Printable](#)

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