

# Medical Assistance in Dying

## Information for patients of Provincial Health Services Authority

**Q & A**  
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### 1. What is Medical Assistance in Dying?

Medical Assistance in Dying (or MAiD) occurs when an authorized health professional administers or provides a drug that intentionally brings about a person's death at that person's request. MAiD is only available to eligible patients.

### 2. Who can provide MAiD?

Only authorized physicians and nurse practitioners can do this procedure.

There are two types of MAiD available to Canadians.

1. Physician or nurse practitioner can directly administer a substance that causes death, such as injection of a drug.
2. Physician or nurse practitioner gives or prescribes a drug that the patient takes to cause death.

### 3. Is MAiD legal?

On June 17, 2016, the government of Canada passed Bill C-14 which makes MAiD legal for Canadians that meet the criteria set out in the legislation.

### 4. Who can request and receive MAiD?

Persons who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Are at least 18 years of age, and eligible for publicly funded health services in Canada.
2. Request MAiD without coercion or influence.
3. Provide informed consent to receive MAiD. The person must have the mental capacity to provide informed consent, including at the time of taking the drug. Capacity is determined by one or more of the health care providers involved.
4. Have a serious life ending illness, disease or disability.
5. Illness is advanced and irreversible with natural death foreseeable.
6. Have intolerable suffering. Note that the patient has no obligation to accept unwanted services or treatment.

### 5. How would I get started if I want MAiD?

1. Talk to your physician or nurse practitioner or any available health care provider.
2. Tell them how you want family or others involved with the MAiD discussions and process.
3. You will be given information on MAiD and other options that may help you make your decision.
4. If you wish to proceed with MAiD, your physician or nurse practitioner will either assist you or connect you to others who can provide MAiD.
5. You will be required to document your request and see two separate physicians or nurse practitioners (assessors).
6. The two assessors will confirm your eligibility.
7. There is a 10-day 'period of reflection' from the time of your request until MAiD is provided.
8. At the end of the reflection period, you will be asked again if you would still like to receive MAiD.
9. MAiD will be provided to you by the method of your choice, and to the greatest extent possible at a location of your choosing by one of the two assessors.
10. The health care team will continue to care for you at every stage of this process and will provide assistance in arranging support to make you as comfortable as possible.

### 6. Whom can I contact for more information about MAiD?

Please contact the Provincial Health Service Authority (PHSA) Patient Care Quality Office at 1-888-875-3256.

You can also visit the PHSA website on MAiD for more information.

[www.phsa.ca/health-info/medical-assistance-in-dying](http://www.phsa.ca/health-info/medical-assistance-in-dying)