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## Medical Assistance in Dying Information

This page will be updated as developments occur related to medical assistance in dying (MAiD).

If you have any questions about medical assistance in dying, please see the [Southlake Medical Assistance in Dying policy](#), or contact the Ethics Service at:

Email: [ethics@southlakeregional.org](mailto:ethics@southlakeregional.org) or

Call: 289-221-3711

Please scroll down for links that contain more information.

### Current state of legislation

In February 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in [Carter v. Canada](#) that parts of the *Criminal Code* would need to change to satisfy the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. The parts that prohibited medical assistance in dying would no longer be valid. The Supreme Court gave the government until June 6, 2016, to create a new law.

In June 2016, the Parliament of Canada passed federal legislation that allows eligible Canadian adults to request medical assistance in dying.

On October 5, 2020, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada introduced Bill C-7: *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)* in Parliament, which proposes changes to Canada's law on medical assistance in dying.

On March 17, 2021, Parliament passed [revised legislation](#) that makes important changes to who may be eligible to obtain medical assistance in dying and the process of assessment. These changes take effect immediately. The government is working with provinces and territories and with health care professionals to ensure eligible Canadians will be able to request MAiD according to the new law, and that the appropriate protections are in place. ([Canada.ca](#))

### Southlake preparations

Southlake has developed a specific policy/procedure for MAiD and has also engaged a MAiD committee which has the following objectives:

1. To collaborate with internal and external stakeholders to provide the administrative, strategic, and clinical guidance to facilitate Southlake Regional Health Centre (SRHC) providers to respond to SRHC (in or out) patient requests for MAiD;
2. To promote the provision of ongoing high-quality care for both patients deemed eligible for MAiD and those deemed ineligible;
3. To provide a process for assessors and providers to meet their professional obligations in responding to patient inquiries or requests for MAiD; and
4. To identify and support the integration of best practice for providing MAiD to eligible patients.

### For physicians

If a patient inquires about or expresses an interest in pursuing medical assistance in dying, please see the most up-to-date version of Southlake's [policy on Medical Assistance in Dying](#) for more information on how to proceed. You may answer the patient's questions about medical assistance in dying to the extent you are comfortable doing so.

Remember that most expressions of a wish to die, or a request for medical assistance in dying, will reflect concerns the patient has, such as un-managed pain or other symptoms, fears, and existential suffering. In most cases an effort to explore and address these concerns will result in the patient withdrawing the wish to die or request for medical assistance in dying.

The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has established a clinician referral service. To register your willingness to participate in some or any part of the medical assistance in dying process, or to facilitate a referral to a clinician, call 1-844-243-5880 or email [maidregistration@ontario.ca](mailto:maidregistration@ontario.ca). Please note this information is for clinicians only and not for public use.

You may also visit the links below for more information that pertains to medical practice and medical assistance in dying.

### **For nurses and other allied team members**

The College of Nurses of Ontario and the Ontario College of Pharmacists have both issued updated guidance for their members. Links to these documents are posted below.

Members of other professions are encouraged to consult with their colleges on this matter.

If a patient enquires about, or expresses an interest in, medical assistance in dying, tell the patient that you will ask the physician to follow up. Then inform the most responsible physician.

### **Links**

Ministry of Health and Long Term Care information page:  
<http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/maid/default.aspx>

Government of Canada information on medical assistance in dying:  
<http://healthycanadians.gc.ca/health-system-systeme-sante/services/palliative-palliatifs/medical-assistance-dying-aide-medicale-mourir-eng.php>

CPSO policy on medical assistance in dying: <https://www.cpso.on.ca/Physicians/Policies-Guidance/Policies/Medical-Assistance-in-Dying>

CMPA update on providing quality end-of-life care: <https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/advice-publications/browse-articles/2011/end-of-life-care-support-comfort-and-challenging-decisions>

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

Full text of Bill C-7: <https://parl.ca/DocumentViewer/en/43-2/bill/C-7/royal-assent>

CNO information page: <http://www.cno.org/en/trending-topics/medical-assistance-in-dying/>

Ontario College of Pharmacists information page: <http://www.ocpinfo.com/regulations-standards/policies-guidelines/assisted-death/>