



Interior Health

February 4, 2022

Dear Division Members and Family Physicians,

As you know, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) has been legal in Canada since 2016. Over the last five years, there has been a steady increase in the number of requests for MAID. In March 2021, the legislation for Medical Assistance in Dying underwent major changes including:

- Removing the 10day waiting period for those whose deaths are reasonably foreseeable
- Allowing for the option of a waiver of final consent if one's death is reasonably foreseeable
- Creating a second pathway for MAID if one's death is "not reasonably foreseeable" with a completely separate set of safeguards.

By the end of 2021, 4% of deaths within IH happened via MAID and we are saw a constant increase in the number of requests by patients for assessment regarding their eligibility for MAID. Between 2020 and 2021, within IH we have seen a 47% increase in the number of requests averaging 70-80 requests per month and 33% increase in the number of provisions with currently over 45 provisions being organized by the MAID coordination center per month.

In order to deal with the increase in demand for MAID, we need your help. We hope that you will consider becoming more involved in MAID assessments. Through the PSP program, full-service family doctors can participate in quality improvement projects. These projects are flexible to physician's needs and can support work to increase one's confidence and competence surrounding MAID assessments and/or provisions.

Participation in PSP quality improvement projects includes compensation for up to 15 hours (at the current sessional rate) and is certified for up to 45 Mainpro+ credits (at 3 credits per hour).

Your help in dealing with these vulnerable patients is appreciated and I hope that you will consider approaching your PSP coordinator to set up a practice improvement project such as:

1. Become more confident in being an assessor for MAID
2. Become more confident in being a provider for MAID
3. Become more confident in how to use the waiver of final consent.

These projects can be done individually or in succession. Suggestions on how one can achieve these goals has been suggested to the PSP coordinators and can be customized to your current knowledge of MAID legislation. If you are interested, please contact Melanie Beatty at melanie.beatty@interiorhealth.ca or your local PSP coordinator.

Sincerely,

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