



# Emerging Topics Bulletin for Educators

## Supported by the CFPC's Postgraduate Education Committee

### Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

## Background

With the passage of [Bill C-14](#) in June 2016, medical assistance in dying (MAID) was legalized. Canadians now have the right to request medical assistance in dying from their health care providers, subject to the provisions of the legislation.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) conducted an environmental scan in order to gauge what programs/program directors need for curriculum assistance to support resident learning and what teaching resources already exist for MAID. Some respondents noted that they are addressing the topic in their curriculum by providing academic sessions, clinical presentations, workshops, and by including presentations at grand rounds.

To assist educators who are actively involved in teaching family medicine residents in this new and changing area of practice, CFPC's Health Policy and Government Relations department has assembled a variety of resources. These will help physicians and other health care practitioners as discussions with patients and families regarding MAID will become more frequent along the continuum of care in family medicine.

## Priority topics and key features

The CFPC Priority Topics and Key Features document does not explicitly identify MAID. However, embedded within existing priority topics and key features are elements that are essential to meaningful engagement with patients and families regarding MAID. These may include, but are not limited to:

- Exploring the experience of suffering in patients with life-limiting conditions due to neoplastic and non-neoplastic disease; priority topics: Cancer, Chronic Disease, Palliative Care
- Understanding the continuum of a palliative approach to care; priority topics: Palliative Care
- Identifying and managing depression as it impacts a patient's goals of care; priority topics: Cancer, Chronic Disease, Depression, Disability, Palliative Care, Parkinsonism
- Understanding approaches to consent for sharing information and having discussions with family; priority topic: Bad News
- Assessing competency specific to a patient's decision-making ability; priority topics: Dementia, Mental Competency

Other areas worth including in curriculum content related, although not exclusive, to MAID include:

- Access and barriers to care
- Inter- and intraprofessional support when engaged in challenging discussions
- Approaches to care that embrace cultural safety
- Conscientious and conscience-based objection

## CFPC resources

[CFPC Medical Assistance in Dying](#)

[CFPC Guide for Reflection on Ethical Issues Concerning Assisted Suicide and Voluntary Euthanasia](#); Prepared by the CFPC Task Force on End-of-Life Care, September 2015

[CFPC MAID Resource Group \(MAID-RG\) Terms of Reference](#); September 2016

## Additional educational resources

Following are other resources you may find helpful for increasing your awareness and knowledge about MAID.

[The Canadian Association of MAID Assessors and Providers \(CAMAP\)](#)

[The Canadian Medical Protective Association \(CMPA\)](#)—  
Medical assistance in dying and the law: One year later

[Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association \(CHPCA\)](#)—  
Policy Alert – UPDATE II, Bill C-14 Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)

[Canadian Medical Association \(CMA\)](#)—Education on medical assistance in dying

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada –  
Providing Medical Assistance in Dying \(MAiD\)](#)

[Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada –  
Conscientious Objection to Medical Assistance in Dying \(MAiD\)](#)

[University Health Network \(UHN\) - Medical Assistance in Dying \(MAID\)](#)

[Centre for Effective Practice \(CEP\) - Medical Assistance in Dying](#)

[The Foundation for Medical Practice Education \(FMPE\)](#)—  
Module available to members only

[Collège des Médecins du Québec - End-of-Life medical care](#)

## Questions?

The CFPC's MAID Resource Group will continually review the evolution of MAID in Canada as it pertains to practice and offer updates. Please contact the CFPC through [healthpolicy@cfpc.ca](mailto:healthpolicy@cfpc.ca) with questions about MAID. If you have any additional teaching resources that you would like to have highlighted or shared, please contact [academicfm@cfpc.ca](mailto:academicfm@cfpc.ca).