
MEMO

Date:	January 12, 2017
To:	All Northern Health Physicians
From:	Dr. Ronald Chapman, VP Medicine
Re:	Medical Assistance in Dying

Dear colleagues,

In order to provide assistance to patients and their practitioners in accessing medical assistance in dying, Northern Health needs to know which practitioners are willing to be involved in the assessment of eligibility criteria (Physician Assessor) and which physicians are willing to prescribe and provide the medical assistance in dying (Physician Prescriber).

Since Bill C-14 was passed into law in June 2016, Canadians experiencing intolerable suffering who are nearing the end of their natural life are able to choose and legally request medical assistance in dying. There are eligibility criteria that have to be met and there are safeguards that have to be in place.

Medical assistance in dying is being provided in both Northern Health facilities and in the community. A physician survey distributed in May 2016 determined that there were twenty- five physicians willing to participate either as an assessor or as a prescriber. The location of participating physicians is unevenly geographically distributed and access to care is therefore a significant issue. Northern Health would like to update the list of participating physicians. The information secured would not be shared without the practitioner's permission. To date, all physicians on the list have chosen to be identified to only to the other physicians on the list.

Additionally,

- Physicians providing Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) in Northern Health Facilities require Advance Procedural Skills in Medical Assistance in Dying. Physicians providing MAID in the community do not.
 - The Family Physician may choose to serve as the Physician Assessor.
 - The Northern Health MAID Care Coordinator, Kirsten Thomson, will facilitate arrangements for assisted dying in a facility but will also offer to assist with arrangements for assisted dying in the community on your request.
 - Virtually all the information required for physicians related to the provision of medical assistance in dying is available on the [NH Physicians website](http://physicians.northernhealth.ca) at physicians.northernhealth.ca under Physician Resources and Medical Assistance in Dying. This includes guidelines, provincial forms, a process flowchart, privileging requirements etc.
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If you wish to be added to the MAID participating physicians list, please complete the attached survey and submit to:

Kirsten Thomson, Northern Health MAID Care Coordinator

Phone: 250-645-6417

Kirsten.Thomson@northernhealth.ca

Fax: 250-565-2640

Questions may also be directed to the Northern Health Physicians Lead in Medical Assistance in Dying

Dr. Daphne Hart

Daphne.Hart@northernhealth.ca

250-847-1192

Sincerely,

Dr. Ronald Chapman