

Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Frequently Asked Questions

This companion document to the *Standard of Practice and Guidelines on MAiD* has been developed to support registrants in gaining a clearer understanding and interpretation of the Standard. It is intended to be read alongside the Standard and guidelines and is not designed to serve as a stand-alone document.

Frequently Asked Questions

QUESTION:

Do I still have to follow this if I am not an employee under Shared Health?

ANSWER:

Yes. The *Standard of Practice* and guidelines apply to all registrants.

QUESTION:

If an individual/client asks for a referral to MAiD, is it my responsibility to determine they are eligible first?

ANSWER:

No. Under the legislation, speech-language pathologists and audiologists are not permitted to determine client eligibility for MAiD. However, they may have a role in assisting a physician or nurse practitioner in the process for determining eligibility, as appropriate.

QUESTION:

If an individual/client asks for either information or a referral, do I have to report that?

ANSWER:

Documentation of a client's request for information should always occur. The request should be reported to a manager/supervisor if the registrant is unable or unwilling to engage appropriately with the client so a referral can be initiated. The reporting process may be determined by institutional or regional health authority policies.

QUESTION:

What if the individual/client has difficulty communicating or has an issue with hearing?

ANSWER:

The provincial MAiD team works with a speech-language pathologist and other professionals who support communication challenges to ensure an effective and reliable means of communication during the review for eligibility and at the time medical assistance in dying is provided. An audiologist would be involved if required.

QUESTION:

Can a healthcare provider, friend, or family member initiate the request for MAiD on behalf of an individual?

ANSWER:

Yes. Anyone can request information and resources relating to MAiD on behalf of individual and as instructed by the individual with their consent. Ultimately, the individual will need to meet all the eligibility criteria, including being able to make medical decisions for themselves and provide consent.

QUESTION:

What if I am a conscientious objector to MAiD?

ANSWER:

While a registrant has a right to conscience-based objection and cannot be forced to participate in the MAiD process, they have a responsibility to respond to a client's inquiry about MAiD and ensure clients have access to this service. If asked for or about MAiD, registrants must ensure timely access to resources that provide accurate information and abide by the guidelines set out by the legislation and the College. Additionally, registrants should be aware of and are required to abide by any additional policies as outlined by their institution/organization and or regional health authority.

If you are a conscientious objector to MAiD you are expected to:

- Inform your manager/employer about your conscience-based objection as early as possible.
- Respect client's autonomy regardless of the registrant's personal beliefs or values.
- Not withhold any information or resources that would impede access to MAiD.
- Direct the client to available MAiD services and resources.
- Obtain consent to refer the client to an alternate service provider who will address the request for MAiD as appropriate if the registrant is unwilling to do so.
- Continue with maintaining the therapeutic relationship and services that are not directly related to the request for MAiD, as appropriate.

QUESTION:

What are my professional and ethical obligations to a client who has requested MAiD?

ANSWER:

Registrants should take the following steps when considering requests from clients for information about MAiD:

- Practice according to Federal and Provincial regulations, professional regulatory standards and organizational policies related to all aspects of MAiD.
- Inform their manager/employer about their conscience-based objection as early as possible if one exists.
- Acknowledge the client's request and assure the client that their request will be conveyed.

- Inform their manager/employer about the request if the registrant is unwilling or unable to engage the client in this process.
- Maintain the therapeutic relationship with the client and continue to provide care that is not directly related to MAiD.
- Document in the client's health record any request for information related to MAiD and any resources shared with the client.
- Contact CASLPM with any questions.

QUESTION:

How do I access MAiD information and resources?

ANSWER:

Direct those seeking information on MAiD directly to the provincial team and ensure that clients are aware of all additional supports that may be available to them including palliative care or spiritual support. Additionally, you may provide resources found at their website Medical Assistance in Dying - Shared Health (sharedhealthmb.ca). Here there are resources such as FAQs for healthcare providers as well. The Provincial Medical Assistance in Dying Team can be contacted at (204) 926-1380 or by email at maid@wrha.mb.ca