



Canadian Association of MAiD
Assessors and Providers



Association Canadienne des Évaluateurs
Et Prestataires de l'AMM

**A STATEMENT ON PROVINCIAL AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS
AND POLICIES PERTAINING TO MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING
(MAiD) DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

April 2020

Principles

- It is of paramount importance that medical and nursing staff remain safe and healthy so that they may continue to provide care to others during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The safety of patients and their loved ones is a priority.
- The provision of MAiD should remain consistent with existing quality and best-practice standards.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

- MAiD assessors, providers and support staff should have full PPE available to them

Cancellation of MAiD services

- Institutions should not adopt blanket cessation of MAiD services as a solution to the problem of potential COVID-19 transmission during MAiD assessments and provisions.

Prohibition of MAiD by faith-based health care facilities

- Many faith-based facilities prohibit the provision of MAiD.
- The transfer of patients from some or all long-term care (LTC) facilities to acute care hospitals has been prohibited in some jurisdictions due to the risk of spreading COVID-19 infection. CAMAP recognizes that this is an established means of preventing the spread of disease.
- A significant number of LTC facilities and many acute care hospitals are faith-based and prohibit MAiD. Patients resident in these facilities have previously been transferred to other institutions that do not prohibit MAiD. When the institutions to which these faith-based facilities previously transferred patients prohibit transfer for reasons of public health these faith-based institutions should now allow MAiD provisions on-site. CAMAP believes that if necessary provincial governments should issue directives to all faith-based institutions requiring them to allow MAiD when the transfer of patients has been prohibited for reasons of public health.

MAiD Documentation

- All provinces should follow the example of British Columbia and some other

provinces and alter the requirements for the assessment of MAiD so that:

- both assessments may be provided using telemedicine;
- if there is a provincial requirement to have a professional witness during a telemedicine assessment, this should be removed;
- completion of the patient's formal written request can be carried out using video conferencing by the patient and the two independent witnesses, removing the need for them to meet physically.