


<p>Winnipegosis and District Health Centre</p>  <p>GOVERNANCE POLICY PROCEDURE</p>	<p>Subject Responding to Inquiries and Requests for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)</p>	<p>No.</p>	<p>Page 1</p>
	<p>Approved By Board of Directors</p> <p>Effective Date December 15, 2017</p> <p>Manual/Section Board Governance</p>	<p>Last reviewed</p>	

1.0 Purpose

Winnipegosis and District Health Centre (WDHC) is owned by the Catholic Health Corporation of Manitoba (CHCM), and is a faith-based facility.

Therefore, in a manner that is consistent with our Catholic fundamental religious principles to which WDHC adheres, this policy will articulate that this facility is to be considered an abstaining facility and will not be providing medical assistance in dying (MAiD) within the hospital or personal care home.

This policy will also describe the elements of an ethical and compassionate response to a client/resident's request for medical assistance in dying at the Winnipegosis and District Health Centre.

Definitions

Assessment Process - The process for examination of the medical condition of a resident/client so that all appropriate and available therapeutic options for client/resident care can be identified, and the resulting consultation with a client/resident on those therapeutic options available to the client to address the client's health and medical needs, including the assessment of the client by an Authorized Practitioner in accordance with the MAiD clinical guide to determine whether the client meets the MAiD criteria.


MAiD or Medical Assistance in Dying: Circumstances where a medical practitioner or nurse practitioner, at an individual's request: (a) administers a substance that causes an individual's death; or (b) prescribes a substance for an individual to self-administer to cause their own death. The definition of MAiD, is not inclusive of processes that may (or may not) culminate in MAiD.

Conscientious Objection: The rejection of providing or participating in MAiD because such action would violate a personal, deeply held moral or ethical value.

Procedure

- 1. Access to Information** - As an abstaining facility, WDHC will ensure timely and accurate access to information regarding MAiD to a client/resident.

A client or resident who wishes to access medical assistance in dying will be directed to speak to their medical practitioner, and can be provided the contact phone number

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(204-926-1380) and email address (Maid@wrha.mb.ca) of the provincial service team.

WDHC is committed to the provision of excellent health care, palliative care and care of the dying that aims to relieve suffering and improve both the quality of living, and dying as the most profound and living expression of compassion and respect for the dignity of every human person. WDHC will ensure to engage with the client/resident and their family to explore if any new goals of care are required or in need of change in an effort to ensure symptom management is maximized. We will also continue to provide excellent spiritual and emotional support to client/resident and the family, in accordance with our values and traditions.


The medical practitioner/WDHC staff will provide the Executive Director or designate with the information on the request to ensure the process is tracked to confirm that timely access and accurate information sharing.

2. **Transfer of Care** - As an abstaining facility, WDHC will ensure that transfer of care from WDHC to another non-abstaining health authority facility or alternative location will occur in a safe, timely and coordinated manner for all clients/residents for those clients/residents who have been assessed and decide to pursue MAiD. A resident/client may not be able to access MAiD if the individual is too ill or frail or refuses to be transferred to a non-abstaining facility or alternative location.

WDHC will follow Prairie Mountain Health (PMH) inter-facility transfer policy (PPG-00812) to facilitate the transfer.

WDHC will tolerate a third party assessment, as provided by the provincial MAiD team, to take place in whole or in part at WDHC, as approved by the Executive Director.

3. **Position Statement** - As an abstaining facility, WDHC will ensure to include the WDHC position statement (appendix A) as a handout to all residents' on admission to the personal care home. This position statement will be made available to any hospital client or as requested by the public.
4. **Employee education** - As an abstaining facility, WDHC will ensure employees are provided education on the provincial and regional MAiD policy/processes and the faith based position statement/policy of WDHC on hiring of all new staff. As well all

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current employees will be provided education through regular reviews/discussions of the provincial policy and WDHC position statement/policy.

- 5. Conscientious objection** - As an abstaining facility, WDHC will ensure that those individuals who declare a conscientious objection to MAiD to the Executive Director will not be required to provide or aide in the provision of information sharing/transfer of care of the resident/client to the provincial MAiD team or with the process necessary for the third party assessment to occur on site.

WDHC staff who choose not to participate in any aspect of this policy will not be forced, coerced, or face retaliatory action as a result of choosing not to participate. WDHC will ensure clients/residents will still have access to requests for MAiD without delay.

WDHC will ensure staff who choose to aide the client/resident in information sharing/transfer of care for the assessment or when MAiD is to occur will also not face retaliatory action in participating in the establish processes that may or may not lead a client/resident to MAiD.

Related Material

Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, Health Ethics Guide, Third edition

Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living, Medical Assistance in Dying Policy, 200.33

Catholic Health Corporation Board of Directors Statement of Position and Commitments. Responding to Inquiries and Requests for Medical Assistance in Dying

St. Boniface Hospital, Responding to Inquiring and Requests for Medical Assistance in Dying, VI-1010

Prairie Mountain Health, Inter-facility transfer policy, PPG-00812

Prairie Mountain Health, Medical Assistance in Dying PPG-01425