

AHS Supportive Review Process

A medically assisted death is not an inherent crisis or adverse event.¹ Still, the availability of medical assistance in dying creates new clinical, spiritual, and moral ground, and may be stressful or challenging for those involved, even if everything goes according to plan. Those whose values align with the provision and availability of medical assistance in dying may still find they have emotional, spiritual, moral reactions to participating in its delivery. These may arise at any time, and different reactions may arise in relation to any particular situation.

It is also important that, as with any new service, we learn and improve our processes along the way. Great care needs to be taken to ensure that medical assistance in dying is provided with the necessary compassion, expertise, and organizational supports for those individuals providing this service, appropriate to their need.

AHS has developed a Supportive Review process. The intent of the process is to:

- 1) Provide mechanisms to continuously improve procedures and practices relating to medical assistance in dying.
- 2) Create forums for those enabling access to medical assistance in dying or who have cared for a patient receiving a medically assisted death to discuss their perspectives and experiences, should they wish to do so.²

The Supportive Review process:

- 1) Connects teams who may provide, or be affected by medical assistance in dying, with a trained facilitator who can offer support to individuals and groups prior to and following a medically assisted death.
- 2) Includes a Supportive Review meeting with those directly involved following a medical assistance in dying event to discuss any lessons learned or recommendations for improvement, and to allow the group to share personal reflections.

To find out more information about the Supportive Review process or to request additional supports for you or your team, please contact the Care Coordination Team via email at: maid.careteam@ahs.ca

¹ There may be times when medical assistance in dying does not unfold as planned, or where an adverse event does occur in spite of everyone's best efforts. If this should come to pass, the usual AHS processes should be used in addition to a Supportive Review.

² The Review Process is not intended to provide, or take the place of counseling or therapy. Individuals are encouraged to seek out help from a qualified mental health professional (privately or via Employee and Family Assistance Program) if they are experiencing significant distress.