

# How Do I Access Medical Assistance In Dying Services in Alberta?

## 1. How do I access information about the option of medical assistance in dying services in Alberta?

Contact your doctor or nurse practitioner, Health Link (811) or the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Medical Assistance in Dying Care Coordination Service at [maid.careteam@ahs.ca](mailto:maid.careteam@ahs.ca) for information and assistance. You may also go to the Alberta Health Services (AHS) website at [www.AHS.ca/MAID](http://www.AHS.ca/MAID) for more information.

## 2. What are the eligibility criteria for medical assistance in dying?

In June 2016 the federal government passed a law, known as “An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)”. This law governs the delivery of medical assistance in dying (MAID) services across Canada.

On March 17, 2021, the federal government passed revised legislation that makes changes to who may be eligible for medical assistance in dying.

### Eligibility for MAID (Source: Bill C-7):

241.2 (1) A person may receive medical assistance in dying only if they meet all of the following criteria:

- a) they are eligible — or, but for any applicable minimum period of residence or waiting period, would be eligible — for health services funded by a government in Canada;
  - b) they are at least 18 years of age and capable of making decisions with respect to their health;
  - c) they have a grievous and irremediable medical condition;
  - d) they have made a voluntary request for medical assistance in dying that, in particular, was not made as a result of external pressure; and
  - e) they give informed consent to receive medical assistance in dying after having been informed of the means that are available to relieve their suffering, including palliative care.
- (2) A person has a grievous and irremediable medical condition only if they meet all of the following criteria:
- a) they have a serious and incurable illness, disease or disability;
  - b) they are in an advanced state of irreversible decline in capability; and
  - c) that illness, disease or disability or that state of decline causes them enduring physical or psychological suffering that is intolerable to them and that cannot be relieved under conditions that they consider acceptable

#### Exclusion

(2.1) For the purpose of paragraphs (2)(a) a mental illness is not considered to be an illness, disease or disability