

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAID)



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1. What are my CHOICES?

Your doctor or nurse can tell you about the different types of care you can have in hospital, at home, or in a hospice as your condition gets worse. Some of these options are:

- Pain medications and other palliative care supports.
- Sedation in some cases (leads to deep sleep or coma).
- MAID.

2. Where can I find out MORE about MAID and how do I ask for it?

- A helpful website is: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/>.
- Speak to your doctor or nurse.
- They will answer your questions or must find you someone who can.

3. What happens if I CHOOSE to have MAID?

- Two health care providers will meet with you and ask you questions about your health and what you hope for.
- They will decide if you meet the conditions for MAID.

4. What can I do if I am REJECTED for MAID?

- You have the right to ask for another opinion.

5. I am ACCEPTED for MAID. Now what?

- Your MAID provider will ask you to fill in a Patient Request Record Form and get an independent witness for it, if not already done.
- To find a witness you can call: 1-877-389-1251.
- You may plan to have MAID immediately or you can wait until later to decide on a date and time.
- You can change your mind at any time about having MAID.

6. PREPARING for the day

If there is a WAITING period, use this time to:

- Spend time with people you love and say what you need to say.
- Do the things you love.
- Share your story in words, pictures, or videos.
- Make plans for the day if you have decided on a date—including any rituals you may wish.
- While you wait for MAID, you will continue to receive the care you need for all your symptoms.

Make PLANS.

Talk with your MAID provider and decide:

- Where will you have MAID?
- Who will be there?
- What do you want to do, see, eat, and feel on this day?

Ask any questions you have about:

- What to expect.
- What will happen if you get sicker very quickly?
- What if you get confused and cannot give consent on the day of MAID?

Make plans for what happens after MAID (e.g., ceremony, funeral, burial, cremation).

7. On the DAY

- When your MAID provider arrives, they will ask you if you still want MAID.
- They may also ask you to sign a consent form (depending on your province).
- Your MAID provider will make sure you are comfortable and will give you drugs that place you into a coma that ends in immediate death.

See islandhealth.ca for more information.

