

Update on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) (Updated July 2023)

Bill C-14, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)* was enacted on June 17, 2016. On March 17, 2021, Bill C-7 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (medical assistance in dying)* was passed. These two MAiD legislations, the Criminal Code and provincial legislation establish the degree of involvement permitted to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in MAiD. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are exempted from criminal liability when dispensing a prescription that is written by a physician or nurse practitioner for the provision of MAiD, as long as they comply with existing legislation and regulations (both federal and provincial), practice directions, Code of Ethics and provincial policies relevant to MAiD and pharmacy practice.

As outlined in the federal legislation, only physicians and nurse practitioners can provide or directly administer MAiD. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are permitted to assist in the MAiD process through filling and dispensing a prescription for the purpose of medical assistance in dying. However, they must not perform any activity which would imply that they are the healthcare professional leading the provision of MAiD. As such, pharmacists are not permitted to administer the MAiD dose.

In Manitoba, MAiD is exclusively coordinated and performed by the provincial Shared Health MAiD team in partnership with Health System pharmacists, and, as such, most Manitoba pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are not involved in direct provision of MAiD medications. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians can support patient inquiries about MAiD by providing information about the process for initiating a request for MAiD by referring to the provincial MAiD services website through Shared Health: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/services/maid/> and/or by referring to the provincial MAiD team. Any pharmacist or pharmacy technician, who is not in direct partnership with the provincial Shared Health MAiD team, and who is approached to participate in MAiD provision by other prescribers are advised to contact the Shared Health MAiD team.

Reporting Requirements

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians are required to report to Health Canada if they have dispensed a substance in connection with the provision of MAiD. Reporting must be done within 30 days of dispensing. Further information on reporting requirements can be found on Health Canada's webpage [here](#).

Conscientious Objection

Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians may object to the provision of certain pharmacy products or services, such as MAiD, if it conflicts with their view of morality or religious beliefs and if they believe that their conscience will be harmed by providing the product or service. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians who know they will object to providing MAiD services, as a matter of conscience, must consider their professional accountabilities. Pharmacy professionals must review the [CPhM Code of Ethics](#) and the [Practice Direction on Conscientious Objection](#). It is expected that those objecting to assist in MAiD, on the basis of a conscientious objection, provide the patient an effective referral to a non-objecting alternate provider where the patient can receive the desired services in a timely manner.

In Manitoba, MAiD is coordinated through Shared Health. A provincial MAiD team is available to help health care providers and patients access this service. Pharmacists and pharmacy technicians may contact the MAiD team with any questions by calling 204-926-1380 or 1-844-891-1825, or by emailing maid@sharedhealthmb.ca. More information, including the [Shared Health MAiD policy](#) can also be found on the Shared Health website at www.sharedhealthmb.ca/services/maid/