

Message to Nurse Practitioners

(v0.04 December 13, 2016 - Reviewed by M. Golberg, L. Sonnema, J. Green)

Attention Nurse Practitioners,

Please be advised that the Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice for Medical Assistance in Dying were approved on December 8, 2016 through an Order in Council as announced by the College and Association of Registered Nurses of Alberta (CARNA).

CARNA has collaborated with Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and the Alberta College of Pharmacists to develop a regulatory framework for medical assistance in dying. This framework is aligned with the new law (the Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts - Medical Assistance in Dying) and is legally sound, safe and consistent with the amended Criminal Code. The framework includes additional provincial safeguards for consistency and patient safety.

What does this mean for Nurse Practitioners (NPs) in Alberta?

It is important for those NPs, who wish to participate as assessing or providing practitioners, to familiarize themselves with the new Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice for Medical Assistance in Dying. NP guidelines will also be available in early 2017.

- 1) **ACCESS** the CARNA website (hyperlink to - <http://www.nurses.ab.ca/content/carna/home/current-issues-and-events/news/dec-09-2016.html>) to learn more about how the Nurse Practitioner Standards of Practice for Medical Assistance in Dying may impact your practice; and, to review the NP guidelines that will be available in early 2017;
- 2) **CONTACT** CARNA for practice advice if participating in the delivery of medical assistance in dying services, contact CARNA at: practice@nurses.ab.ca or call CARNA at: 780-451-0043 or 1-800-252-9392;
- 3) **CONTACT** Canadian Nurse Protective Society (CNPS) to ensure they understand the legal requirements if you intend to participate as assessing or providing practitioner;
- 4) **ACCESS** the AHS webpage: www.ahs.ca/MAID to review the legislation, AHS policy and procedures documents (AHS Comprehensive Clinical Guide, Role of the Medical Examiner, etc.).

5) **REVIEW** two key documents (below) designed to support clinicians in an exploration of values and an approach to creating inclusive work environments.

- i. Medical Assistance in Dying: Values-Based Self-Assessment Tool for Health Care Providers (including Physicians):

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/maid/if-hp-maid-self-assessment-tool.pdf>

- ii. Healing the Divide: A Health Care Provider's Relational Approach to Medical Assistance in Dying Discourse:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/info/hp/maid/if-hp-maid-healing-the-divide.pdf>

REGARDING ADDITIONAL TRAINING RESOURCES, CARNA and AHS are collaborating on the development of medical assistance in dying education modules which will include a module dedicated to addressing issue of ensuring capacity/competency. The modules will be available via My Learning Link in 2017. Once the education modules are ready for release AHS will update its webpage with instructions.