


Medical Assistance in Dying: Ethical Reflections


Annual Conference Broadcast
October 20, 2016

Marika Warren and Christy Simpson
Catherine Frazee, Andrea Frolic, Christine Gibbons,
Mona Gupta, Jeff Kirby, Anne Marie Krueger-Naug,
Serena Lewis, Lynn Miller, and Jacynthe Rivest




Welcome

- **Objectives**
- **Guiding questions**
- **Broadcast logistics**
 - Electronic polling
 - Questions
 - Link for review of discussion
- **Workshops**



Objectives

- **At the end of this broadcast, participants will be able to:**
 - Describe the development of the current legislative framework around medical assistance in dying (MAiD)
 - Discuss some of the ethical questions related to MAiD in general and its implementation in Nova Scotia
 - Describe the roles that ethics support can play with respect to MAiD
 - Engage in discussion with colleagues about MAiD
 - Participate in discussion of cases involving MAiD in the follow-up workshops



Guiding Questions

- What has helped shape your position on MAiD?
- Has your perspective on MAiD shifted? Why?
- How are cases involving MAiD similar to other, more familiar cases? What is importantly different?
- What are the biggest challenges with MAiD for you?
- What do you consider to be the most challenging ethical tensions around MAiD?



Guiding Questions

- For example, how might MAiD challenge commitments to:
 - Balancing providing care and respecting providers' ethical convictions;
 - Balancing respect for autonomy and protection of potentially-vulnerable populations;
 - Fair resource allocation;
 - Providing the best possible care;
 - Providing patient-centered care;
 - Others?



Broadcast Logistics

- Polling
- Questions
- Link - recording



Workshops

- October 25th – Northern Zone (Amherst)
 - October 28th – Eastern Zone (Antigonish)
 - November 8th – Western Zone (Liverpool)
 - November 10th – Central Zone (Dartmouth)
- \$40 – Register at www.nshen.ca



Poll

- **What is the most significant ethical concern about MAiD from your perspective?**
 - A. Access by patients – being unfairly denied
 - B. Access by patients – providers not available
 - C. Reduction in support for palliative care services
 - D. Shift in role of health care providers
 - E. Requests from minors or via advance directive
 - F. Interpretation of federal legislation preventing access
 - G. Detrimental effects on particular individuals or populations



Presenter

Medical Assistance in Dying in Canada: A Brief History

Christine Gibbons

<p>91st Session, 43rd Parliament, October 28/November 4, 2015/2016</p> <p>HOUSE OF COMMONS OF CANADA</p> <p>BILL C-14</p> <p>An Act to amend the Criminal Code and to make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying)</p> <p>Preamble</p> <p>Whereas the Parliament of Canada recognizes the autonomy of persons who have a grievous and irremediable medical condition that causes them enduring and intolerable suffering and who seek to end their life or assistance in dying;</p> <p>Whereas relevant stakeholders, reflecting the irreversible nature of ending a life, are essential to present evidence and advice to the provision of medical assistance in dying;</p> <p>Whereas it is important to affirm the inherent and equal value of every person's life and to avoid any corresponding negative consequences of the quality of life of persons who are seeking or are provided with medical assistance in dying;</p> <p>Whereas vulnerable persons must be protected from being induced, in moments of weakness, to end their lives;</p>	<p>43^e session, 43^e législature, 28 octobre à 4 novembre 2015</p> <p>CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES DU CANADA</p> <p>PROJET DE LOI C-14</p> <p>Loi modifiant le Code criminel et apportant des modifications connexes à d'autres lois (aide médicale à mourir)</p> <p>Preamble</p> <p>Attendu :</p> <p>que le Parlement du Canada reconnaît l'autonomie des personnes qui sont atteintes de problèmes de santé graves et irrémédiables leur causant des souffrances prolongées, intolérables et qui souhaitent s'auto-détruire ;</p> <p>que de solides preuves de renseignements qui reflètent l'irréversibilité de l'état des personnes à mourir lui et à vie d'une personne sont essentielles pour présenter les preuves et les avis pertinents de la prestation de l'aide médicale à mourir ;</p> <p>qu'il est important d'affirmer la valeur inhérente et égale de chaque vie humaine et d'éviter d'évoquer les conséquences négatives potentielles de la qualité de vie des personnes âgées, malades ou handicapées ;</p> <p>que les personnes vulnérables doivent être protégées</p>
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Poll

• **What do you think is the most important ethical issue related to medical assistance in dying?**

- A. Access in rural areas
- B. Conscientious objection
- C. Protecting vulnerable populations
- D. Requests in advance directives
- E. Effect on perception of health care



Panel

Medical Assistance in Dying: Ethical Concerns

Catherine Frazee
Jeff Kirby
Anne Marie Krueger-Naug
Lynn Miller



Ethical Concerns: Discussion Questions

- **What do you see as the most significant ethical concerns with medical assistance in dying? Why?**
- **What, if anything, has surprised you about recent conversations regarding medical assistance in dying?**
- **How would you suggest approaching ethical deliberation about medical assistance in dying with patients and families and health care teams?**



Poll

• **What sort of ethics support do you think is most effective with regard to MAiD?**

- A. Education
- B. Debriefing soon after a particular event
- C. Development of tools and quick-reference resources
- D. Facilitating general discussion about MAiD
- E. Prebriefing and helping to prepare teams and families



Panel

Medical Assistance in Dying: Roles for Ethics

Jennifer Dunsford
Andrea Frolic
Mona Gupta &
Jacynthe Rivest
Serena Lewis



Roles for Ethics: Discussion Questions

- **How can ethics play an active role in the practice of MAiD?**
- **Has anything surprised you so far in regards to needs for ethics support since the introduction of MAiD?**
- **Where do you see the biggest challenges for ethics support in the administration and practice of MAiD?**
- **From your perspective, how may the need for ethics support in relation to MAiD differ from ethics support needs in relation to end-of-life care in general?**



Conclusion

- **Thanks**
- **Workshops**
- **Resources, supports, and further discussions**



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