



Family Experience with MAiD

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The following discussion questions are provided as an additional educational tool to accompany this fireside chat video. Please feel free to select the questions that are most relevant to your committee or group and revise and adapt them as needed. As always, we welcome feedback on this or any other NSHEN resource.

Questions:

- What stood out the most to you in this interview? Why?
- Why do you think people might choose MAiD?
- What do you think family members might find most ethically challenging if their loved one chooses MAiD?
- Buffy talks about coming to peace with and respecting a family member's decision to go through MAiD, even if you don't necessarily agree with their decision.
 - What are some of the things that might help family members prepare for, and come to peace with, a loved one's decision to go through MAiD?
- What can health care providers do to support family members throughout the process?
- Do you agree that conversation around death and dying has become taboo and anxiety provoking for many?
 - Why do you think some might find it difficult to talk about death and dying?
- What makes a good death?
- Identify and discuss some of the things that health care providers need to be sensitive to when communicating with family members of patients going through MAiD.

Resources

Brown, Sarah (2019). Why many doctors still find it difficult to talk about dying with patients. CMAJ; January 7 2019; 191(1): E22-E23 <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/191/1/E22>

Grant, Taryn. "N.S. woman trying to stop husband from medically assisted death denied stay motion" CBC News, Nova Scotia, September 4, 2020. <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/medically-assisted-death-wife-loses-appeal-1.5712579>

Holmes, Sheila (2018). Exploring the experience of supporting a loved one through a medically assisted death in Canada. *Can Fam Physician*; 2018 Sep: 64(9):e387-e393.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6135137/>

Nuhn, Amelia et al (2018). Experiences and perspectives of people who pursued medical assistance in dying. *Can Fam Physician*; 64; September 2018: e380-e386.

<https://www.cfp.ca/content/cfp/64/9/e380.full.pdf>

Pesut, Barbara and Thorne, Sally (2019). “Why people choose medically assisted death revealed through conversations with nurses”. *The Conversation*. September 26, 2019 (<https://theconversation.com/why-people-choose-medically-assisted-death-revealed-through-conversations-with-nurses-122000>)

Trouton, Konia et al (2020). Attitudes and expectations regarding bereavement support for patients, family members, and friends: Findings from a survey of MAID providers. *BC Medical Journal*; 62(1): January February 2020: 18-23. <https://bcmj.org/articles/attitudes-and-expectations-regarding-bereavement-support-patients-family-members-and>

Websites:

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia’s website on Medical Assistance in Dying

<https://cpsns.ns.ca/standards-guidelines/medical-assistance-in-dying/>

Nova Scotia Health’s website on Medical Assistance in Dying: <http://www.nshealth.ca/about-us/medical-assistance-dying>

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