
*Medical Assistance In Dying (MAID) and Postgraduate Medical Education
Learners (Residents and Fellows) – HUEC Meeting 28 November 2018*

Situation:

The UHN MAID program has been providing MAID learning opportunities for learners from a variety of health professions since September 2016. For postgraduate medical education trainees (i.e. residents and fellows) the experiences to date have been ad hoc, with trainees requesting to participate in MAID assessments, with the approval of their supervisors, whilst they are completing other rotations at UHN. With increasing awareness about MAID, there has been greater interest in participating in MAID learning opportunities from residents and fellows. As such, education leadership at UHN in collaboration with hospital leadership in MAID is consulting HUEC as to how best to proceed to optimize the learning experience whilst also comports with PGME guidelines and ensuring adequate support of our trainees.

Background:

As per MAID hospital leadership, U of T PGME, CPSO, OMA and CMPA were consulted about involvement of medical trainees in MAID and advised that they should be exposed to training opportunities with supervision commensurate to their level of training, and that their educational licenses cover them for this work. To date, requests from residents/fellows in the following specialties have been received: anaesthesia, radiation oncology, internal medicine, palliative care and psychiatry.

Residents and fellows have been involved in MAID learning opportunities through two routes:

- 1) UHN physicians have had trainees on their services involved during MAID-related activities. In the current process, where the MAID discussion or activity has been part of routine clinical care, the core supervisor provides supervision according to the information provided on the UHN MAID websites. MAID Assessment or Intervention Team Members have also invited trainees to accompany them during MAID assessments or interventions. **Participation is always voluntary and trainees are free to decline the experience** (i.e. “conscientious objection”).
- 2) Trainees contact MAID leadership to ask for opportunities to participate in MAID learning opportunities whilst they are on other clinical rotations at UHN. For these experiences, the following support is provided:
 - Trainees are provided with the UHN MAID Framework, NEJM MAID publication and a MAID e-learning module for self-directed background reading, and can meet with the MAID Program Lead for further discussion
<https://www.uhn.ca/healthcareprofessionals/MAID>
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMms1700606>
 - When assessment or intervention opportunities arise, a message is sent to all interested trainees for the first available, with approval of the time from their core supervisors.

- The patient is asked for permission for trainee involvement by either the MAID co-ordinator or MAID Team Member (recent modification to MAID Referral Form to obtain this consent at beginning of process)
- Trainees are connected to a MAID Team Member who agrees to provide supervision
- The MAID Program Lead and Head (Madeline Li and Gary Rodin), both palliative care psychiatrists, are available to debrief with and support trainees for distress as needed

To date, trainees have reported positive experiences and there have been no patient incidents related to trainee involvement.