

Completion of Medical Certificates of Death after an Assisted Death: An Environmental Scan of Practices

Produire un certificat médical de décès dans les cas d'aide médicale à mourir : analyse du contexte des pratiques

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Table 1.

| Jurisdiction | Responsibility for MCD completion | MCD completion and manner | Involvement of the Coroner/ME office | Information source |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|
| British Columbia | Practitioner | MAiD (due to) underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Natural | Coroners Service is designated agency for monitoring and reporting. Prescribing physician responsible for completing the MCD and the BC Coroners Service Report of MAiD Death form. | College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC: Professional Standards and Guidelines: Medical Assistance in Dying (Section 13 & Documentation Section) BC Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health (page 11). |
| Alberta | Medical Examiner | Administration of drugs X, Y, Z (due to) underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Unclassified Part 2: Indicate MAiD was provided and any additional significant medical conditions. | Deaths reportable to the ME Office. | Alberta Health Services: Role of the Medical Examiner related to Medical Assistance in Dying (point 6, 7, 8, 10). E-mail communication with Office of the Chief ME and with Alberta Health Services MAiD Navigator. |
| Yukon | Practitioner | Underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: MAiD | No general requirement for the Coroner to be notified of a medically assisted death. If the underlying grievous and irremediable condition that leads someone to make a decision for medical assistance in dying is related to an accident, violence, workplace exposure or injuries, or misfortune, the Coroner must be notified. | Government of Yukon – Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Info Sheet (Section 8). E-mail communication with Yukon Office of the Chief Coroner. |

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| Northwest Territories | Practitioner | MAiD (due to) underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Natural | No general requirement for the Coroner to be notified of a medically assisted death. If the underlying grievous and irremediable condition which leads someone to make a decision for medical assistance in dying is related to an accident, violence, workplace exposure or injuries, or misfortune, the Coroner must be notified. | E-mail communication with the Office of the Chief Coroner of the Northwest Territories. |
| Saskatchewan | Coroner | Drug toxicity (due to) MAiD (due to) underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Suicide | Deaths reportable to the Office of the Chief Coroner. | E-mail communication with the Office of the Chief Coroner of Saskatchewan. |
| Manitoba | Practitioner | Underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Natural (indicate MAiD was provided) | Chief ME must be notified prior to and after MAiD administration. The death itself is not reportable to the Office of the ME unless the underlying condition was unnatural. | Winnipeg Regional Health Authority: Manitoba Medical Assistance in Dying Overview for Health-Care Providers (Section 3) E-mail communication with the Office of the Chief Coroner and the Manitoba Provincial MAiD team. |
| Ontario | Practitioner | Underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Natural | Coroner is notified of all deaths and the Coroner will decide if an investigation is required or not required. Physicians are to make no reference to medical assistance in dying, or the drugs administered to achieve medical assistance in dying, on the death certificate. | College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario: Medical Assistance in Dying (Reporting Obligations section and Completion of Death Certificate section) E-mail communication with the Ontario Office of the Chief Coroner. |
| Quebec | Practitioner | Underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Natural | Where a death is the subject of a Coroner's investigation, the certificate of death shall be drawn up by the Coroner. There should be no reference to medically assisted dying. | E-mail communication with Ministry of Health and Social Services Quebec. Collège des médecins du Québec (no PDF link available). |

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|------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| New Brunswick | Practitioner | Drug toxicity (due to) MAiD (due to) underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Natural | Death is not reportable to the Coroner's Office. | E-mail communication with New Brunswick Coroner's Services, Vital Statistics Office and College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick. |
| Prince Edward Island | Practitioner | Administration of drugs X, Y, Z (due to) underlying illness, disease or disability Indicate MAiD was provided Manner: Section 30 of the MCD is to be left blank | Death is reportable to the Coroner's Office. If Coroner deems an investigation is required than the Coroner will complete the MCD. | E-mail communication and documents from PEI Department of Justice and Public Safety. College of Physicians and Surgeons of PEI: Medical Assistance in Dying |
| Nova Scotia | Practitioner | Injection of (name drug[s]) (due to) underlying illness, disease or disability Note MAiD in other significant conditions section. Manner: Natural | Medical practitioners completing the MCD in cases of MAiD are to follow current practices in terms of determining whether to notify the Medical Examiner Service. | Interim Instructions from Service Nova Scotia: Vital Statistics (no online link available). E-mail communication from Doctors Nova Scotia. |
| Newfoundland/ Labrador | Physician | Underlying illness, disease or disability Manner: Natural | Medical Examiner plays no role and the death is not reportable. | E-mail communication from Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of NFLD/LB. |