

Other Important End of Life Considerations

Canada Pension and Life Insurance Benefits:

1. Will my request for medical assistance in dying affect the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) death benefit?

No. We are advised that the payment of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP) death benefit will not be impacted by the medical assistance in dying legislation. The eligibility for the CPP death benefit is based on contributions made to the CPP by the deceased contributor. If the contributory requirements are met, the benefit will be paid to the estate of the contributor.

Source: December 9, 2016 - CPP Policy and Legislation, Seniors and Pensions Policy Secretariat, Income Security and Social Development Branch, Employment and Social Development Canada

2. Will my life insurance benefits be affected if I proceed with medical assistance in dying?

According to a statement made by the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association if a medical assistance in dying procedure follows the legislation, then the possible exclusion regarding suicide will not be applied. The Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association recommends that all policy holders contact their insurance broker to confirm this information.

Goals of Care Designation:

3. What is a Goals of Care Designation (GCD) Order?

A Goals of Care Designation Order is a medical order that outlines general care intentions, specific health interventions, and location of care and transfer opportunities for current and future care. It is signed by the most responsible health practitioner (the doctor or nurse practitioner you see regularly) after consultation with you or your alternate decision maker.

4. Why is a Goals of Care Designation (GCD) Order so important?

This document is very important and tells emergency response teams (ambulance - paramedics, EMTs) how to manage your care (i.e., provides them with information about intentions regarding your general care and specific health interventions) when called to your home. This document also tells doctors and the healthcare team in the emergency department or other locations in hospital about the foregoing information.

5. How often do I need to update the Goals of Care Designation (GCD) Order?

It is recommended that the Goals of Care Designation Order be updated whenever your health condition has changed or you have changed your mind about general care intentions, location of care and transfer opportunities for current and future care.

- 6. Should I discuss updating my Goals of Care Designation document, contained in my greensleeve with my doctor or nurse practitioner when I make a request for medical assistance in dying?**

Yes. It is recommended that the Goals of Care Designation be updated to reflect your wishes related to medical assistance in dying, resuscitation, and transport to a hospital in the event of complications related to medical assistance in dying.

Alternate Decision Makers:

- 7. Can I assign someone to request medical assistance in dying on my behalf if I am unable to make health care decisions?**

No. The current law does not allow you to assign someone to make decisions on your behalf regarding medical assistance in dying.

- 8. Where can I find more information?**

For assistance and information send your questions to the Alberta Health Services Medical Assistance in Dying Care Coordination Service at: Maid.careteam@ahs.ca.

You can also find information and resources on the Alberta Health Services (AHS) website at www.AHS.ca/MAID.