



INTRODUCTION

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) developed policy guidance in 2019 for organ and tissue donation after medical assistance in dying (MAiD) because of patient requests.

In 2021, the federal government made changes to legislation related to MAiD.

This research provides updated guidance for clinicians, organ donation organizations, end-of-life care experts, MAiD providers and policy-makers on the impact of these changes.

OBJECTIVES

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) facilitated 3 online forums to assess and evaluate the impact of Bill C-7 and ongoing patient requests related to donation after MAiD in Canada:

1. Impact of Waiver of Final Consent for MAiD
- Still proceed with donation?
2. Impact of new Track 2 patient pathway for MAiD
- When to approach patients re donation (90 days)
3. Requests for Directed Donation following MAiD
4. Requests for donation following MAiD at Home

METHOD

- Canadian Blood Services assembled a group of 63 experts from critical care, organ and tissue donation, health-care administration, bioethics, law and research
- Two patients who had requested and been found eligible for MAiD and 2 family members of patients who had donated organs after MAiD were also included as participants.
- 3 online meetings from June 2021 to April 2022 were hosted where forum participants addressed a variety of topics in small and large groups related to Bill C-7
- An adapted form of nominal group technique was used to develop the new and updated recommendations, which were approved by consensus of the participants

AUTHORS

K.WIEBE¹, L. WILSON²,

K.LOTHERINGTON³, C.MILLS⁴, S.

SHEMIE⁵, J.DOWNAR⁶

1 Shared Health Manitoba, Medical assistance in dying

2 Canadian Blood Services, Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation

3 Canadian Blood Services, Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation

4 Canadian Blood Services, Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation

5 Division of Pediatric Critical Care, McGill University Health Centre

6 University of Ottawa, Department of Medicine

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Kim Wiebe – Lead Author: KLWwiebe@sharedhealthmb.ca

Fiona Slater – Sr. Project Manager – CBS Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation: fiona.slater@blood.ca

RESULTS

2 updated recommendations and 8 new recommendations in the following areas:

- referral to an organ donation organization
- consent
- MAiD procedures
- directed donation
- health care professionals
- reporting

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this updated guidance is to continue to inform the development of policies and practices of donation after MAiD. This will help clinicians navigate the medical, legal and ethical challenges that arise when they support patients pursuing donation after MAiD.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This guidance was developed on behalf of Canadian Blood Services in collaboration with the Canadian Society of Transplantation, the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses, the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program, and the Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers.

REFERENCES

1. Nicol, J and Tiedemann, M. Bill C-14: An Act to amend the Criminal Code and make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying). Library of Parliament, 2016. 42-1-C14-E. <https://lop.parl.ca/staticfiles/PublicWebsite/Home/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/PDF/42-1/c14-e.pdf>
2. Nicol, J and Tiedemann, M. Bill C-7: An act to amend the criminal code (Medical Assistance in Dying). Library of Parliament, 2021. 43-2-C7-E. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/bdp-lop/lp/vm32-3-432-c7-eng.pdf
3. Downar J, Shemie S, Gilrie C, Fortin MC, Appleby A, Buchman D, et al. Deceased organ and tissue donation after medical assistance in dying and other conscious and competent donors: guidance for policy. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2019; 191 (22): E604-613. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.181648>
4. Wiebe K, Wilson L, Lotherington K, Mills C, Shemie S, Downar J. Deceased organ and tissue donation after medical assistance in dying: 2023 updated guidance for policy. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2023; 195 (25). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.230108>

INTRODUCTION

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) developed policy guidance in 2019 for organ and tissue donation after medical assistance in dying (MAiD) because of patient requests.

In 2021, the federal government made changes to legislation related to MAiD.

This research provides updated guidance for clinicians, organ donation organizations, end-of-life care experts, MAiD providers and policy-makers on the impact of these changes.

OBJECTIVES

Canadian Blood Services (CBS) facilitated 3 online forums to assess and evaluate the impact of Bill C-7 and ongoing patient requests related to donation after MAiD in Canada:

1. Impact of Waiver of Final Consent for MAiD
 - Still proceed with donation?
2. Impact of new Track 2 patient pathway for MAiD
 - When to approach patients re donation (90 days)
3. Requests for Directed Donation following MAiD
4. Requests for donation following MAiD at Home

METHOD

- Canadian Blood Services assembled a group of 63 experts from critical care, organ and tissue donation, health-care administration, bioethics, law and research
- Two patients who had requested and been found eligible for MAiD and 2 family members of patients who had donated organs after MAiD were also included as participants.
- 3 online meetings from June 2021 to April 2022 were hosted where forum participants addressed a variety of topics in small and large groups related to Bill C-7
- An adapted form of nominal group technique was used to develop the new and updated recommendations, which were approved by consensus of the participants

RESULTS

2 updated recommendations and 8 new recommendations in the following areas:

- referral to an organ donation organization
- consent
- MAiD procedures
- directed donation
- health care professionals
- reporting

CONCLUSION

The purpose of this updated guidance is to continue to inform the development of policies and practices of donation after MAiD. This will help clinicians navigate the medical, legal and ethical challenges that arise when they support patients pursuing donation after MAiD.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This guidance was developed on behalf of Canadian Blood Services in collaboration with the Canadian Society of Transplantation, the Canadian Association of Critical Care Nurses, the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program, and the Canadian Association of MAiD Assessors and Providers.

REFERENCES

1. Nicol, J and Tiedemann, M. Bill C-14: An Act to amend the Criminal Code and make related amendments to other Acts (medical assistance in dying). Library of Parliament, 2016. 42-1-C14-E. <https://lop.parl.ca/staticfiles/PublicWebsite/Home/ResearchPublications/LegislativeSummaries/PDF/42-1/c14-e.pdf>
2. Nicol, J and Tiedemann, M. Bill C-7: An act to amend the criminal code (Medical Assistance in Dying). Library of Parliament, 2021. 43-2-C7-E. https://publications.gc.ca/collections/collection_2021/bdp-lop/lp/YM32-3-432-C7-eng.pdf
3. Downar J, Shemie S, Gillrie C, Fortin MC, Appleby A, Buchman D, et al. Deceased organ and tissue donation after medical assistance in dying and other conscious and competent donors: guidance for policy. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2019; 191 (22): E604-613. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.181648>.
4. Wiebe K, Wilson L, Lotherington K, Mills C, Shemie S, Downar J. Deceased organ and tissue donation after medical assistance in dying: 2023 updated guidance for policy. Canadian Medical Association Journal, 2023; 195 (25). doi: <https://doi.org/10.1503/cmaj.230108>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Kim Wiebe – Lead Author: KLWiebe@sharedhealthmb.ca

Fiona Slater – Sr. Project Manager – CBS Organ and Tissue
Donation and Transplantation: fiona.slater@blood.ca