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Medical Aid-In-Dying Experience

An Aftercare Support group member shares about her husband's experience with medical aid-in-dying in Canada.

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Legislative Update



Protecting Access to Medical Aid-In-Dying

Critical changes to the law remove unnecessary barriers to access for terminally ill Washingtonians. With the passing of ESSB 5179, Protecting Access to MAID, we have more than doubled the number of medical practitioners who can engage in medical aid-in-dying. We have helped the 20% of our clients who would have died before the end of the longer waiting period. We have saved hours of driving and delay for people living in areas not close to a compounding pharmacy.

The matrix below shows the improvements that ESSB 5179 makes.
The law will go into effect **July 23, 2023**.

WASHINGTON MAID LEGISLATION

	PRIOR TO JULY 23, 2023		AFTER JULY 23, 2023
Who are qualified medical providers to be Attending Provider (AP) and Consulting Provider (CP)?	MDs and DOs	→	MDs, DOs, ARNPs, PAs
What's the waiting period for Medical Aid in Dying?	At least fifteen days after making the initial oral request	→	At least seven days after making the initial oral request
What is required for the Written Request?	48 Hour waiting period after the written request is signed and witnessed before RX can be written	→	No waiting period on the written request - If all qualifications are met, RX can be written immediately after written request
Who can record a patient's FOR (first oral request) ?	MD or DO	→	MD, DO, ARNP, or PA
Who can make the initial determination of a patients eligibility?	Unclear	→	Either the AP or CP (MD, DO, ARNP, PA)
Does charting a FOR count as participation in MAID?	Unclear	→	No
Who can perform psychological consultations for MAID?	A state licensed psychiatrist OR psychologist	→	A state licensed psychiatrist, psychologist, independent clinical social worker, advanced social worker, mental health counselor, or psychiatric advanced registered nurse practitioner
Can a hospital, clinic, or institution prohibit a health care provider from participating?	Yes	→	Cannot prohibit participation while offsite and outside the scope of employment
How can prescriptions be received and dispensed?	Submit prescription to pharmacy by mail or fax Prescriptions dispensed only in-person, delivery not allowed	→	Submit prescription to pharmacy by mail, fax, or electronically Prescriptions can be dispensed by signature delivery/courier
How are documentation submitted to the Department of Health (DOH)?	Mail only	→	Transmitted electronically, mailed, or faxed
Who has to submit policies to the DOH related to health care?	Hospitals must submit policies to DOH regarding nondiscrimination and reproductive health	→	Hospitals and Hospices must submit their policies on end of life care and the Death with Dignity Act, with what services are and are not generally available

About the Protecting Access to Medical Aid-In-Dying Act

Quick Facts on THE PROTECTING ACCESS TO MEDICAL AID-IN-DYING ACT

- Maintains existing core safeguards
- More equitable access for underserved folks, including BIPOC and people in rural areas
- Reflects modern medical practices

1 MORE PROVIDERS CAN SUPPORT PEOPLE

Seven in ten Washingtonians need help finding physicians to support them in accessing the law. If passed, qualified medical providers would include Physician Assistants & Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP).



2 SHORTER WAITING PERIOD

When someone is suffering, 15 days is an eternity. Other states have shortened waiting periods. California and New Mexico have a 48 hour waiting period. Oregon Physicians can waive the waiting period.



3 MODERN PRESCRIPTION DELIVERY

Adopts current best practice prescription delivery methods such as mail, courier, or authorized pick-up.

