

Since the passing of legislation rendering MAID legal everywhere in Canada, members have turned to us for trustworthy advice and support to help them navigate the complexities of this issue.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Support for physicians— Medical assistance in dying (MAID)

The CMPA has a long track record of assisting physicians as they care for patients experiencing end-of-life issues. We know how difficult and emotional these situations can be. For many physicians, few issues are likely as difficult as medical assistance in dying (MAID). As lawmakers considered legislation, we were fully engaged to ensure physicians' medical-legal interests were protected. This included providing written contributions and giving verbal presentations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights and to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs; providing input to the federal health minister; and actively engaging the media to ensure physicians' perspectives were known and understood. To support our members, we rapidly developed and delivered education programs, including a two-day comprehensive program co-ordinated with the Canadian Medical Association.

Since the passing of MAID legislation, members have turned to us for trustworthy advice and support to help them navigate the complexities of this issue. Our physician advisors are fully versed in this matter and ready to provide advice when the need arises. In 2016, our physician advisors and legal counsel provided over 300 members with general and case-specific medical-legal advice on MAID-related matters. In addition, our website articles on conscientious objection and guidance on the medical-legal impacts of the legislation were viewed more than 5,200 times.

We continue to advise members about MAID-related legislation and College guidelines and standards across all jurisdictions. We are also committed to continuing to work with stakeholders to ensure that physicians' medical-legal interests are protected.