

Our Current Policy - Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

MAiD refers to the provision, by a physician or nurse practitioner, of a substance to an individual, at their request, which causes their death. This provision can be carried out legally when requested by the individual, under specific circumstances and where the individual meets the criteria outlined by Federal Legislation.

At Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice, we believe that people have a right to die with dignity, free from pain, surrounded by their loved ones in a setting of their choice. Our focus is on symptom management and improving quality of life through a holistic, person-centered approach to care for those living with a life-limiting illness.

Hospice palliative care sees dying as a normal part of life. It does not seek to hasten death or intentionally end life; rather, it helps people to live well and die well. While Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice respects an individual's autonomous decision surrounding assistance in dying, we do not accept referrals to our Houses for individuals actively seeking MAiD. And while MAiD is not part of our philosophy and approach to hospice palliative care, we will make appropriate referrals in a timely manner to honor this choice should a resident's wishes in this regard change.

Referrals for MAiD will be made through Ontario Health atHome, and all MAiD-related services will not be provided by the staff of Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice. Residents who choose MAiD will not be compelled to leave our hospice; however, if they choose an alternate location, we will support them by making transportation arrangements.

We will continue to provide compassionate palliative end-of-life care to residents throughout the duration of their stay at Lisaard & Innisfree Hospice, respecting their dignity and their right to make decisions for themselves. Support will continue to be provided to a resident's family and friends through our aftercare process, and information regarding bereavement services will be provided.