

## Interview Guide

Version 3 – 19 February 2019

I am interested in finding more about your involvement with medical assistance in dying, MAiD; how this has affected your practice and your perceptions of yourself as a health care provider. I want to study MAiD from your point of view.

I also want you to know that you are freely able to withdraw your consent at any time and you may choose not to answer any questions you are not comfortable with. Do you have one hour available today to talk with me?

### Current Professional Role

1. Please describe what you currently do as a physician / pharmacist / nurse / health care administrator (or in your job).
2. Tell me about how your role came to include MAiD. or How did you become involved with MAiD?
  - a. When did you start assessing MAiD patients and/or performing MAiD?
3. How many MAiD procedures have you been involved in since you started?
  - a. Did your patients play a role in your getting involved with MAiD?
  - b. Are the MAiD patients you have been involved with your own patients or patients you know well and see regularly?
4. How much time a month do you spend participating in MAiD and assessments?
  - a. Are you thinking about expanding the time you spend on MAiD assessments and procedures?
  - b. Do you travel to provide MAiD? If so, how far and how often?
  - c. Where have your MAiD assessments and procedures occurred: at patient's home, the hospital, your office, other?
  - d. How do you set up MAiD assessments and procedures with nursing, pharmacists and administrators? Does anyone help you with this?
  - e. How do you schedule MAiD into your current practice? If you provide it on your own time, is it on evenings and weekends?
  - f. Nurses: Why did you decide to participate in the MAiD procedure?
5. Why is it important for you to offer MAiD in NS?
6. Have you taken any MAiD training? If so, where or with whom?
  - a. Have you joined Dying with Dignity? Have you taken their training?
7. Have you developed or found any support systems for yourself now that you are involved with MAiD? Do you feel you need any additional support systems for yourself personally?
  - a. Some people are worried that professionals involved in MAiD will burn-out. Is this a concern for you? If so, is there anything you are doing to prevent burning out?
8. Are you a MAiD mentor in Nova Scotia?
  - a. If so, how did you become involved?
  - b. Can you tell me more about your role as a mentor

9. We've heard that some health care professionals had trouble billing for MAiD. What processes did you go through to bill for MAiD and receive remuneration?
10. Do you think the remuneration for MAiD is adequate and covers your costs?
11. What are you doing differently now in your job than you did before MAiD was legal? How has your role changed since it became legal?
12. Has participating in MAiD changed how you think about yourself as a professional?
  - a. If so, in which ways?
  - b. If not, why do you think it hasn't changed the way you think about yourself as a professional?
13. Do you think participating in MAiD has changed your professional role or practice?
  - a. If so, what do you do differently in your role or practice?
  - b. If not, why hasn't your role or practice changed?
14. Are there any ways you think MAiD in NS could be improved or different?

### **Professional's Colleagues**

15. How do your colleagues feel about your being a MAiD provider?
  - a. Do you feel that the small number of health professionals participating in MAiD in NS puts an additional burden on you? If so, tell me more about that.
16. Do you work with different professionals or are you involved in different ways with other professionals than you did before you practiced MAiD?
  - a. If so, tell me more about which professionals you now work with and how your relationship has changed.
  - b. Some interviewees mentioned that their communication with other professionals increased quite a bit after they became involved with MAiD, has this happened to you?
17. Do any of your professional colleagues (either within the same profession or in another profession) participate in MAiD?
  - a. Which professions are they?
18. Do you know what your fellow professionals who practice MAiD are doing differently now than they did before it was legal?
19. Which professionals do you think should provide MAiD in NS?

### **Professional's Patient's Family**

20. What type of support do the families of the patient's you provide MAiD for have?
21. What type of support would you suggest could be most helpful for the families, both before and after MAiD?

### **Professional's Organization**

22. In your experience, what kinds of changes were required to implement MAiD in your practice or organization? What kinds of changes do you think your organization needs to make so that it is easier for you to participate in MAiD?
  - a. Did you have any say or input into making or implementing these changes to provide MAiD in your organization?
23. Can you tell me about what your organization is doing differently now than it did before MAiD was introduced?

**Additional Comments, Questions or Thoughts**

24. Is there anything that you want to talk about regarding MAiD and your professional role that we did not discuss?
25. If we were to expand this study across Canada, which provinces would you recommend we start with?
26. Do you have any questions for us about the research?
27. Would you be willing to send information about our study to your colleagues?