

<b>Policy and Procedure</b>		Page 1 of 4	PPM-a4-64.0	
		Date: July 2018		
		<b>Supersedes</b>		
		Policy no.	Original	Last Revision
<b>Section</b>	Clinical Program Services	PPM-a4-64.0	Jan 2017	June 2018
<b>Title</b>	Request for Medical Assistance in Dying			
<b>Applies to</b>	Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place	P&P Committee Approval: July 2018 Approved by: Valerie Wiebe		

## Policy

1. Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place are Mennonite Christian health care facilities that are committed to the inherent dignity of every human being throughout the entire continuum of life from conception to natural death. As such, our ethical and moral opposition to the practice of medical assistance in dying needs to be recognized, respected and honored by all persons served by or working within Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place.
2. This policy applies to all Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place management, employees, physicians, volunteers, students and to any other persons acting on their behalf (collectively, "Staff").
3. Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place Staff shall not provide medical assistance in dying. Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place are committed to provide quality palliative care, as well as compassionate support for all patients/residents and their loved ones through all stages of life including:
  - Providing and honoring patient/resident self-determination through the use of advance care planning, goals of care designation, and/or health care directives, including the role of substitute decision-makers acting on behalf of the patient/resident;
  - Offering quality palliative and end-of-life care that addresses physical, psychological and spiritual/religious needs for people who are dying and their caregivers;
  - Delivering effective and timely pain and symptom management by qualified health care professionals.
4. Expressed requests from persons in our care for medical assistance in dying should be respectfully acknowledged without judgment or coercion.
  - Refer to WRHA Medical Assistance in Dying 110.000.400
5. Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place recognize that Staff serving the people in our care may be conflicted when responding to a request given the range of deeply held societal views on medical assistance in dying. Nevertheless, Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place have an institutional right to uphold the principles of faith and morals by which they are bound as Mennonite Christian health care facilities.
6. In accordance with *The Personal Health Information Act*, Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place shall disclose and provide personal health information about an Individual, including access to the Individual's health record, to the MAID Team when requested by the Individual or the MAID Team with the consent of the Individual.

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7. Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place shall not prohibit the MAID Team from accessing an Individual within the facility for the purposes of obtaining consent and information, or discussing all appropriate and available therapeutic options available to the Individual to address their health and medical needs when the Individual, or anyone on their behalf, has initiated contact with the MAID Team.

## **Procedure**

### **A. Responsible Parties**

1. Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place will inform all persons receiving care or their substitute decision maker, of the person's right to make decisions concerning their medical care, including the right to accept or withdraw medical or surgical treatment and the right to formulate advance directives.
2. Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place will provide information to all individuals requesting information on the Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place policy on Medical Assistance in Dying (the "MAID Policy") and the decision by the Board of Directors of Concordia Hospital and Concordia Place to exercise its institutional right to conscientious objection.
3. Patients/residents/substitute decision makers and physicians are encouraged to fully explore and discuss care and treatment options for patients and residents. As part of that discussion, Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place recognizes that a request for MAID may occur within the context of the physician-patient/resident relationship.
4. Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place respects the rights of all patients/residents/substitute decision makers and physicians to discuss and explore all such treatment options, but fully expects that patients/residents/substitute decision makers and physicians will respect and adhere to the MAID Policy while undergoing and providing treatment within Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place.

### **B. Specific health care team responsibilities when receiving a request for MAID**

1. Physicians and other health care providers who are approached by patients or their families about MAID shall inform the patient that Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place does not offer MAID services, but that provision will be made for them to explore and access MAID services through the WHRA.
2. When a person expressed a wish for medical assistance in dying, the attending physician will be notified.
3. The attending physician will promptly review the person's medical status and engage in a conversation with the patient seeking to understand the person's reason for the request. The attending physician will take a whole person centered approach to care and will refer to additional services from the multidisciplinary health care team, as needed. The health care team will then discuss the full range of treatment options with the person. The health care team will also advise the person of the MAID policy and specifically that this service is not provided at Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place, but that provision will be made for them to explore and access MAID services.

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4. Individuals are to receive timely and accurate responses when an Individual requests MAID or information relating to MAID. Where an individual is unable to contact an appropriate resource due to any physical limitations or due to any condition, medical or otherwise, Concordia Hospital Chief Medical Officer (CMO) or the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) shall either arrange for appropriate supports to enable the Individual to contact an appropriate resource, or shall contact the MAID Team directly.

For greater certainty, timely and accurate information relating to MAID means, at a minimum, that the Individual is provided with the contact information for the MAID Team and/or Health Links-Info Santé within 24 hours.

#### MAID Team

Website address: <http://www.wrha.mb.ca/maid/index.html>

Email address: [maid@whra.mb.ca](mailto:maid@whra.mb.ca)

Local telephone number: 204-926-1380

Toll free telephone number: 1-844-891-1825

#### Health Links-Info Santé

Local telephone number: 204-788-8200

Toll free telephone number: 1-888-315-9257

5. Individuals may not be able to access MAID if the Individual is too ill or frail to be transferred to another WRHA Facility that permits MAID, or if the Individual declines to be transferred from an Abstaining Facility Operator to another WRHA Facility that permits MAID. At Concordia Hospital, the attending physician and other health care providers who are approached by patients or their families about MAID shall promptly advise the CMO or CNO of Concordia Hospital.

At Concordia Place, the attending physician and staff who are approached by residents or their families about MAID shall promptly advise the Director of Residential Services or the Medical Director of Concordia Place.

These principal contacts for Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place shall then contact the MAID Team and/or Health Links-Info Santé within 24 hours.

6. When, after discussion with the Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place Health Team and the CMO or CNO, the WRHA MAID Team, the person's desire and intent is to pursue medical assistance in dying, the person will be informed again that his service is not provided at Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place. The person can choose to remain in Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place and receive the treatment and care recommended by the health care team, or choose to be transferred to another care facility, or choose to be discharged home with services in place as deemed necessary by the health care team.
7. If the person chooses to leave Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place, designated staff and the attending physician will facilitate discharge planning in a timely, safe, compassionate and respectful manner.

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### **C. Documentation**

The attending physician will document in the medical record a summary of the discussion with the patient/resident/family member(s) regarding his/her request for medical assistance in dying as well as the reasons outlined by the person. The health care team will document the full range of treatment options offered to the patient/resident/family member(s) at Concordia Hospital/Concordia Place.

### **D. Consultation Services**

If situations arise that present ethical and/or legal issues, contact the Chief Medical Officer and/or the Chair of the Ethics Resource Team.