



June 24, 2016

**Dear Members,**

On June 17, 2016, Bill C-14, legislation on Medical Assistance in Dying, received Royal Assent and is now in force across Canada. There are two types of assistance described in the legislation.

1. The administration of a substance to a person, at their request, to cause their death;
2. The prescription or provision of a substance to a person, at their request, so that they may self-administer the substance.

This means it is possible for RNs and RN(NP)s to be involved in medical assistance in dying without facing criminal prosecution, when eligibility criteria and other conditions are met.

### **Registered Nurse (Nurse Practitioners)**

RN(NP)s will have the ability to provide or assist with medical assistance in dying after the SRNA has collaboratively developed the applicable practice guideline.

**At this time, RN(NP)s should consult the SRNA practice team for advice if requested to assist and/or provide medical assistance in dying.**

### **Registered Nurses**

RNs can be involved in assisting with medical assistance in dying after the SRNA has developed the applicable practice guideline.

**At this time, RNs should consult with the SRNA practice team for advice if requested to assist with medical assistance in dying.**

SRNA staff are currently working with representatives of other provincial regulatory bodies, Ministry of Health, regional health authorities and other organizations to review the final version of the legislation and **develop specific guidance and expectations for you as members. We will consult with you during this process.**

In the interim, we ask that you contact a practice advisor (1-800-667-9945 ext. 200 or [practiceadvice@srna.org](mailto:practiceadvice@srna.org)) to discuss any specific requests you receive for providing medical assistance in dying.

The amendments to the *Criminal Code* **do not impose** an obligation for RNs or RN(NP)s to participate in medical assistance in dying. RNs and RN(NP)s may raise a conscientious objection or decline participation in circumstances where they do not have the knowledge or ability to safely provide medical assistance in dying. RNs and RN(NP)s must ensure that the patient receives continuity of care and is referred to access this assistance through other means.

Resources on Medical Assistance in Dying:

- Regular updates will be posted on the [SRNA](#) website.
- The [Saskatchewan Ministry](#) of Health also has a number of resources for the public and health practitioners.
- Members may also refer to the [Canadian Nurses Protective Society](#) for professional liability support (1-800-267-3390).

The CNPS is hosting a webinar to provide update on this topic. This event will be hosted by CNPS nurse legal advisor Elaine Borg.

**Webinar information: [Update on the New Law of Medical Assistance in Dying](#)  
Wednesday, July 6, 2016, 12 PM - 1 PM EST**

**Description:**

Amendments to the Criminal Code to permit medical assistance in dying came into law on June 17, 2016. Attend this webinar to understand what the changes mean for you as a registered nurse or nurse practitioner.

[Event details](#)      [Registration](#)

In appreciation,

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