

# Ask a Practice Advisor

Barbara MacDonald, RN and Carolyn Hoffman, RN

## Your Questions. Our Advice.

As an RN or RN(NP), what information can I provide on medical assistance in dying?  
Can I initiate conversations on this topic?

As the profession-led regulator, the SRNA has developed practice guidelines for RNs and RN(NP)s involved in medical assistance in dying in Saskatchewan. More than 20 people have received medical assistance in dying in the province since legislation came into effect in June 2016. It is important for patients/clients to have the information they need to make an informed choice if they are considering medical assistance in dying. RNs and RN(NP)s may offer information, answer questions, and initiate discussions about this within the context of all options for end-of-life care.

The Criminal Code includes: “for greater certainty”, a clause that states that “no social worker, psychologist, psychiatrist, therapist, medical practitioner, nurse practitioner or other health care professional commits an offence if they provide information to a person on the lawful provision of medical assistance in dying” (Criminal Code, 1985, 241[5.1]).

Collaborative efforts are underway to create tools to support these discussions and inform choices for people seeking information about medical assistance in dying. Until then, unless you are counselling people to disregard the legislation, or end their lives through suicide, you can engage in discussions to provide information as appropriate.

The SRNA has developed two Guidelines; one for RNs and one for RN(NP)s. The two SRNA guideline documents, one for RNs and one for RN(NP)s, can be found on our website in the Resources Section.

In addition, SRNA practice advisors are available each business day from 0800 to 1630 to take your call. You may also email at [practiceadvice@srna.org](mailto:practiceadvice@srna.org)

*Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46, as amended by *Criminal Code* (Medical Assistance in Dying), S.C. 2016, c. 3. s. 3. Retrieved from <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-46.pdf>

The SRNA has developed specific Guidelines for RN & RN(NP) Involvement in Medical Assistance in Dying

