



Hello everyone,

You may or may not be aware but over the last few weeks and in fact over the last few months there has been a heightened awareness and focus on MAID (Medical Assistance In Dying) issue across the country and certainly here in BC. Over the last year we have had a number of residents who have requested to go through the MAID process. Although MAID has become legal since 2016, the extent to which the MAID process is applied remains quite diverse and often depends on the provincial and local legislation and organizational mission, vision, and values. Within this context, in BC, faith based organizations have the right to offer alternate solutions and provisions of the process that would be in line with their faith and religious context. Louis Brier is a Jewish facility that follows the orthodox traditions and values. In accordance to these traditions and values, assisted suicide is NOT supported. The board and the LB leadership team had a robust discussion and consultation process with regards to the MAID process and as a result it was decided that while we respect residents' wishes and recognize and value individuals' decision making, we would only agree to facilitate the MAID process on site to the point of assessment. Should the resident decide that they wish to pursue the process further, as an organization we would collaborate to facilitate the provision of the MAID process to be completed somewhere else. This in fact means that we would not prevent this from happening but rather help this take place elsewhere. The decision was not made lightly, and we continue to discuss this at the LB ethics committee, as well as the board's ethics committee. We continue to get information and consult experts in the field and monitor other developments in the industry to remain current and make appropriate adjustments should they be required and relevant.

The most important points to keep in mind are:

- We support the process and are not circumventing the law, rather help individuals achieve the MAID outcome in an alternate site
- We support the MAID process to the point of assessment to take place on site
- Collaborate with our stakeholders throughout the process
- Have a MAID policy in place and a credentialing and privileging process in place

Going forward, if you are approached by anyone from the public or media please refer them either to me or other senior team members (listed below) and please avoid providing personal interpretations or opinions.

- Angela Millar, Director Quality and Risk
- Carol Bucknor, Executive Director Resident Services
- Tony Holtzhausen, CFO

If you have further questions and or concerns please let me know and I will be more than happy to discuss.

Below you will find links to several articles discussing a specific LB resident.

The link to the Globe and Mail article is this

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/assisted-dying-in-religious-facilities-means-tough-choices-for-families/article37516504/>

The link to the article in the Vancouver Sun is this

<http://vancouversun.com/news/local-news/jewish-care-home-accuses-doctor-of-sneaking-in-and-killing-someone/amp>

Article in the Jerusalem Post

<http://m.jpost.com/Diaspora/Medically-assisted-suicide-sparks-scandal-at-Canadian-Jewish-elderly-home-533037>

Victoria Times Colonist

<http://www.timescolonist.com/news/b-c/jewish-care-home-accuses-doctor-of-sneaking-in-and-killing-someone-1.23137914>

Thanks,

Dr. David Keselman, MN, DHA, CHE, RN  
Chief Executive Officer