

The Island Capsule

PEI College of Pharmacists

6/10/2016

Edition 2, Volume 22

Physician Assisted Death-Update

As you may be aware, the June 6, 2016 deadline imposed by the Supreme Court of Canada for the Federal Government to establish legislation ([Bill C-14](#)) for medical assistance in dying (MAID) has come and gone without any legislating enacted. This leaves pharmacy professionals in a precarious position as there are currently no exemptions to the Criminal Code set out by either the Supreme Court decision in *Carter v Canada* or any other provincial court applications. The PEI College of Pharmacists is drafting a guidance document that will be available in the coming days that will provide pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with direction on their involvement in physician assisted death. The guidance document will be sent

MISSION

Regulating the practice of pharmacy in the province so as to promote a high standard and safeguard the welfare of the public with regard to pharmaceutical service.

to pharmacists and pharmacy technicians via email and posted on the PEI College of Pharmacists website www.pepharmacists.ca once available. If you have any questions on physician assisted death or medical assistance in dying in the interim, please contact the PEI College of Pharmacists by email: info@pepharmacists.ca or by phone 902-628-3561

Carter v Canada

On February 15, 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada (SCC) ruled that the provisions within the Criminal Code that prohibited physician assisted death were invalid and that an individual was within their constitutional rights to access physician assisted death under a specific set of requirements that the patient:

- Is a competent adult;
- Clearly consents;
- Has a grievous and irremediable medical condition that causes enduring suffering that is intolerable to the individual;
- The medical condition cannot be alleviated by any treatment acceptable to the individual.

The Federal Government was given until June 6, 2016 (see [Bill C-14](#)) to develop legislation that would enable physician assisted death.

To read the decision, select the link below.

[Carter V Canada](#)