

The Island Capsule

PEI College of Pharmacists

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College Releases Guidance in Medical Assistance in Dying

The Council of the PEI College of Pharmacists has approved a guidance document that provides direction for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians with respect to their participation in Medical Assistance in Dying. The document outlines considerations that should be made when a pharmacist or pharmacy technician chooses to participate in physician assisted dying. However, the College *recommends that a pharmacist or pharmacy technician consult with their own legal counsel before providing services to support a physician's prescription for physician-assisted death. At this time, each pharmacist or pharmacy technician must make their own measured and informed decisions about whether to support physician-assisted death.*

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.

While the fate of Bill C-14 is determined in the Senate, the College has requested that the Department of Justice and Public Safety issue a directive protecting pharmacists and pharmacy technicians from criminal prosecution when supporting physicians providing MAID.

[Medical Assistance in Dying: Guidance Document for Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians](#)

[Bill C-14](#)

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. Bill C-14 is currently stalled between the Senate and the House of Commons.

To read the decision, select the link below.

[Carter V Canada](#)