

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

HEALTH CARE

Authorization

BoD Resolution 2019/05/11

Date:

April 30, 2019

APPLICATION 5: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING (MAID)

1. *What is Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)?*

On June 18, 2016, the federal government passed legislation to legalize and regulate medically assisted death in Canada. An adult who meets the eligibility criteria may request medical assistance in dying.

2. *If an injured worker wants to request medical assistance in dying because of a work injury, what is WCB’s role in the process?*

Even though the worker’s reason for considering or pursuing medically assisted death is because of a compensable injury (including occupational disease), WCB does not participate in or guide the process for this very personal matter in any way. The decision about the worker’s legal eligibility is at the sole discretion of the worker’s treating physicians.

A worker who has questions about the process or is considering pursuing medical assistance in dying should speak directly with their treating physician. Alternatively, workers in Alberta may call Health Link (811) for information or visit Alberta Health Services’ website at www.ahs.ca/maid. For other Canadian jurisdictions, workers can find information links on Canada Health’s website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/provincial-territorial-contact-information-links-end-life-care.html#a6>.

3. *If a worker does pursue medical assistance in dying, are the worker’s dependants eligible for WCB fatality benefits?*

WCB will consider the worker’s death to be a compensable fatality, provided the worker’s compensable condition qualified the worker for medical assistance in dying. Survivor benefits will be determined as they would be for any other compensable fatality (see Policy 04-08).

The compensable condition may not be the only medical condition causing the worker’s suffering or reasonably foreseeable death, but it must be of sufficient significance so that, but for the compensable condition, the worker

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Eligibility for fatality benefits (continued)

would not be legally eligible for medical assistance in dying.

As WCB must determine whether the worker’s death is a compensable fatality, WCB will need documentation confirming that the treating physicians’ approval of medical assistance in dying was due to the worker’s compensable condition.

4. *Does WCB pay for the medical costs associated with medical assistance in dying?*

If WCB determines that the worker’s medically assisted death is a compensable fatality, WCB will pay for the necessary healthcare costs associated with the medically assisted death. This may include such things as fees for the required medical consultations, the prescribed medications, and transfers to or from a health care facility for assessment or to the location where the medically assisted death will take place.

5. *How does acceptance of a medically-assisted death as a compensable fatality affect the employer’ costs?*

When a medically-assisted death is accepted as a compensable fatality, the resulting costs are dealt with in the same way as with any other compensable fatality (see Policy 04-08, Part II, Application 1, Question 4, and Policy 07-02, Part II, Application 1, Question 5).

6. *When is this policy application effective?*

This policy application [Application 5 – Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)] is effective June 1, 2019, and applies to all decisions made on or after that date, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).