



## Internal Memo

**Date:** 27 March 2020

**To:** Physicians, Health Professional Staff, Leaders

**From:** Dr. Andrea Frolic, Director, MAiD Program and Dr. William Harper, Physician Lead, MAiD Program

**Subject:** **Suspension of Hospital-based MAiD Service**

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This is a very difficult time for everyone at HHS. We want to take this moment to thank all of you for your dedication, your courage and your sacrifice in preparing for the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the temporary suspension of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD services) at Hamilton Health Sciences. All of our Assisted Dying Resource and Assessment Service (ADRAS) team members have been redeployed to their primary clinical services or other roles necessary to help with the pandemic efforts. In addition, movement of staff and physicians between sites and even wards is being curtailed in order to contain the spread of the virus, making the conduct of appropriate assessments and provision difficult.

As fierce advocates for patient choice, we are saddened that patients are having their care options curtailed at this time; but this is the reality for all sorts of clinical services and procedures. However, we take solace in the fact that our colleagues in Palliative Care are working diligently to ensure all patients will have access to symptom management and support during this challenging time.

For the foreseeable future, ADRAS will continue to receive requests and inquires via email ([adras@hhsc.ca](mailto:adras@hhsc.ca)) and our coordinators will make referrals to our community MAiD providers for patients who are still at home or can be discharged to the community. We hope to be able to return ADRAS to full services as soon as possible after the pandemic is over.

May you be safe and well, may you find hope and courage in the days ahead.