Memo re: MAiD Policy Variance (Witnesses)

To: NSHA Staff
From: Cynthia Stockman, Director Policy and Planning, Acute Medicine and Dr. Gord Gubitz, Medical Director, MAiD
Date: 2020/03/25
Re: Witnesses to Consent Form – Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)

The NSHA policy on Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) [NSHA CL-AP-010 Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD)] has been revised due to the current situation involving COVID19.

Effective immediately, the Executive Leadership Team has approved a temporary change to the policy that prohibits NSHA staff from acting as an independent witness for MAiD Request and Consent forms. As such, an NSHA staff member can now be an independent witness, provided that the staff member qualifies as an independent witness.

To qualify as an independent witness the person must:
- be 18 years of age
- understands the nature of the request for medical assistance in dying
- is not directly involved in providing health care services to the person making the request
- does not know of or believe that they are a beneficiary under the will of the person making the request, or a recipient, in any other way, of financial or other material benefit resulting from that person’s death

QUESTIONS?
If you have questions about this policy, please ask your manager or John McCarthy, Medical Affairs Advisor, MAiD.
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