

May 11, 2016

RVH SEEKING PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING PLAN

Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre (RVH) is seeking feedback from the community to help develop its policy regarding the proposed Bill C-14, which supports medically-assisted dying, where a physician or nurse practitioner provides or administers medication to intentionally bring about a patient's death, at the request of the patient. The health centre has launched a survey to gather feedback from the community to help shape its plan for compassionate end-of-life care. It can be found on the engagement page of RVH's website available [here](#).

"Bill C-14 impacts RVH because we need to have a comprehensive plan regarding compassionate end-of-life care in light of this new legislation," says Dr. Chris Tebbutt, vice president, Medical Affairs & Quality, RVH. "At RVH, we are committed to fulfilling our commitment to patients and respecting their unique needs as part of our **MY CARE** philosophy. We have created a multi-disciplinary committee to help us develop the plan, but we welcome feedback from the public as an important part of our discussion. Our policy will clearly outline the process for patients and caregivers, while respecting the opinions of everyone involved."

Members of Parliament are currently debating the new Bill C-14, which if passed, will become law on June 6, 2016. The new legislation outlines specific criteria for Medical Assistance in Dying (MedAID). The patient must be at least 18 years, a consenting adult with a serious and incurable disease, illness or disability who is suffering intolerably, in an advanced state of irreversible decline and for whom death is reasonably foreseeable. The new legislation would not compel anyone to provide assistance in dying and the federal government will work with the provinces to connect patients with doctors and nurse practitioners who are willing to participate in medically-assisted dying.

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For more Information:

Jane Cocking
Manager, Corporate
Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41611

Jennifer Moore
Corporate Communications
705-728-9090 ext. 41618

About RVH:

RVH is a regional health centre in Barrie, Ontario, located 80 kilometres north of Toronto. As the largest hospital in the region of Simcoe Muskoka, RVH's team of over 350 physicians, 2,500 employees and 850 volunteers provides exceptional care and specialty services to almost half a million residents, including cancer care, stroke services, orthopaedics, intensive care, mental health and interventional radiology. RVH is focused on delivering high-quality, safe care that puts patients and their families first. For more information visit www.rvh.on.ca