Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD): A Scoping Review of International Literature

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Disclosure

I have no actual or potential conflicts of interest in relation to this topic or presentation
Objectives of the Session

• RNAO organization
• Purpose of scoping review
• Scoping review protocol
• Results
• Final conclusions
• Implications for Guideline
RNAO is the professional association of Registered Nurses, Nurse Practitioners and nursing students in Ontario, Canada. The strong, credible voice leading the nursing profession to influence and promote healthy public policy, and clinical excellence. The Best Practice Guidelines is a signature program of RNAO. Speaking out for nursing. Speaking out for health.
THE PROCESS of developing, implementing and evaluating BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES
Why a Scoping Review on MAiD?

End of Life Care Clinical Best Practice Guideline in Ontario:

- To inform the purpose & scope of the Guideline
- Determine the current status of MAiD
- What is the role of the nurse in MAiD?
Scoping Review Protocol

1. Formulate Questions
   What is the role of the nurse in MAiD for patients at end of life?
   What organizational and system level supports are needed by nurses?

2. Search Terms

3. Identify Studies

4. Study Details

5. Summarize Results
Eligibility Criteria

Inclusion Criteria

- January 2011 to August 2016
- Adults (>18 years)
- Across health settings and sectors
- All countries
- Nursing role and organizational/system level supports
- Not relevant to the MOHLTC (2016) definition of MAiD

Exclusion Criteria

- Dissertations, commentaries, narratives, anecdotal articles, letters to the editor, editorials, consensus documents, discussion papers, case studies, case series, or conference presentations
- Non-English studies
- Studies not able to be retrieved electronically
- Patients with mental illnesses
The Search Process

Search results

8406 records

Include after Title & Abstract Screening

216 articles

Included after Relevance Review

20 articles
*Q1 (10), Q2 (11)

*1 study was included in both questions
Summary of Included Studies

Full List of Countries of Publication

Netherlands: 9
Belgium: 4
USA: 3
Canada: 1
Brazil: 1
Croatia: 1

Full List of Study Design Types

Cross-Sectional: 9
Qualitative: 8
Mixed Method: 7
Case-Control: 1

What is the role of the nurse?

- Open communication between patient and physician
- Complex interplay between patient, physician and relatives
Organization, system level supports?

Education, Training & Awareness
- Clear guidance around legislation and ethics
- Support from leadership

Support & Inclusion of Nurses
- Support in work environment, resources
- Include in decision making process
Conclusions & Implications

Current research is exploratory in nature

More attention is needed on the role of the nurse & members of the team

Too soon to include recommendations on MAiD in the Guideline
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Any Questions?

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