Medical Aid in Dying in New York State

What, Why, and How

END OF LIFE CHOICES NEW YORK

End of Life Choices New York

Our mission is to improve awareness and options for end of life care for New Yorkers and the people who assist them through support, education, outreach and advocacy.



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Medical Aid in Dying

Basic Eligibility Requirements



01 Adult

You must be over 18 years of age.



02 Terminal Diagnosis and Prognosis

You must have a terminal diagnosis and a prognosis of 6 months or less to live. Two doctors must attest to this.



03 Capacity Evaluation

A psychiatrist, psychologist, or neurologist must assess that you are capable of making this health care decision.



04 Ability to Self-Administer

You must be able to take the medications yourself- three routes for self-administration.



05 Resident

You must be a resident of New York.

Medical Aid in Dying



It is a process of constant and active consideration

Medical Aid in Dying is a dynamic process that is part of good end of life care.

About autonomy

People who end up choosing medical aid in dying often want to assert autonomy over the timing of their death.

It’s not about a prescription

It’s about good care, which is a process. A prescription is a static object.

Aid in Dying Care is End of Life Care

This includes hospice care. We believe that people who are considering aid in dying care should be on hospice with a good coordination between professionals.

Process to Access Medical Aid in Dying

It is a process of constant and active consideration

Medical Aid in Dying is a dynamic process that is part of good end of life care for all adults over 18 years.

Oral and written request

Patients must make an oral and written request. The oral request must be recorded by an audio or visual device and stored in the medical record. The written request must be signed and dated by the patient and 2 witnesses.

Requests must be made by the patient

No one can request this option for another individual, including the health care agent or surrogate. This is patient-directed and a patient can change their mind at any time.

Attending/Prescribing and Consulting doctor must assess capacity and eligibility

They must also refer the patient for a capacity evaluation by a psychiatrist, psychologist or neurologist.

Patients must wait five days to purchase medications after it is prescribed

This can be waived if the patient is likely to die within the five-day waiting period.



Community Questions

Can any physician in NYS participate or are they only certain ones who can be involved?

- *Health institutions determine their policy. If a policy allows for MAiD participation, then each physician chooses if or how they want to participate.*
- *Talk to your doctor if you are considering MAiD.*

Does every doctor know about Medical Aid in Dying and will they participate?

- *We are doing outreach to medical institutions across the state to provide more information. Each institution will have different policies so we ask that you speak with your doctor if you are considering MAiD.*



Community Questions



Part of the law requires a patient to be a New York State resident, what does that mean?

- *There is no set definition for a NYS Resident right now. Patients considering MAiD should be able to show they live in NYS.*

What does the mental health evaluation entail?

- *It's a Capacity Evaluation not a mental health evaluation. A psychiatrist, psychologist, or neurologist will assess your capacity to make this decision.*

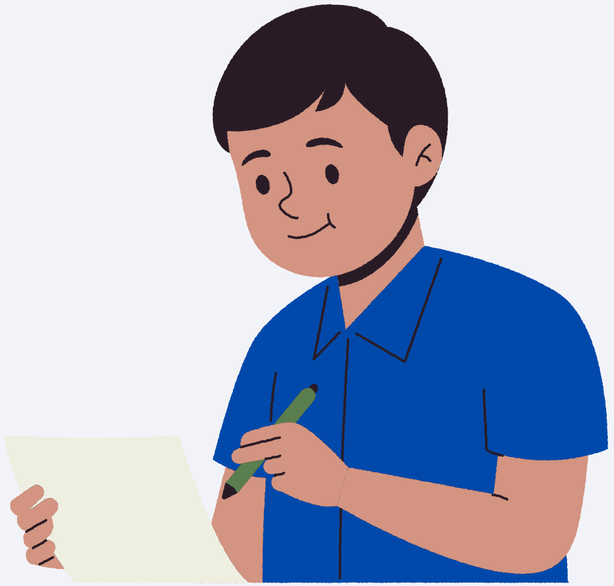
Can you put Medical Aid in Dying in your Advance Care Planning or Living Will?

- *No, MAiD requires the patient to actively communicate their wishes throughout the process. Advanced Directives are for if the patient is unable to communicate.*

Community Questions

Does insurance cover the costs of Medical Aid in Dying?

- *No; there may be low-cost, mid-cost, and private medicine options available dependent on your area of the state. Reach out to us for more information.*



What happens if I want to do Medical Aid in Dying, I go through the process, and I get the medications- do I have to take them right away?

- *No, the patient chooses when to take the medications. Talk to your doctor about your timeline as there may be additional considerations.*

What if I go through the process and get the prescription but then I survive longer than six months, what happens?

- *Given this type of medication, it is best to only pick up the medication when you are ready to take it.*

Community Questions



How much do the medications cost?

- *Estimated $1300; financial support may be available via EOLCNY.*

Will Medical Aid in Dying be listed on the death certificate?

- *No, the terminal illness will be listed.*

Is there a list of Medical Aid in Dying providers?

- *Reach out to us, and we can connect you to providers in your area if appropriate.*

Do patients living with Dementia / Alzheimer's qualify?

- *No, but that does not close the door on conversations about end of life options! Please reach out to us to discuss further.*

Have there been aid-in-dying days (ingestions) in NYS?

- *Yes, over 20 ingestions have happened since the law became effective.*

Helpful Links from EOLCNY

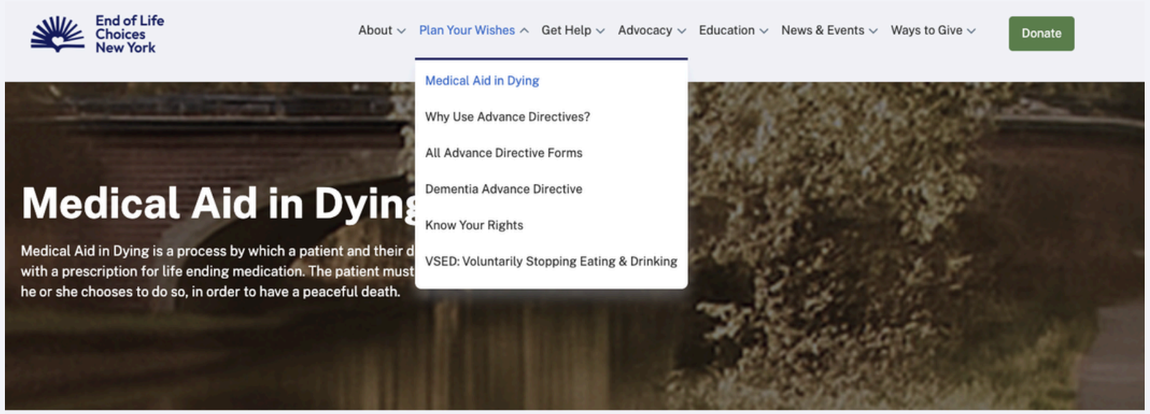
EOLCNY provides patient support through our MAiD Navigation Program.
This program offers referrals to providers (as available), education and information, and collaborative support throughout the MAiD process with the goal of patients feeling affirmed as they navigate this option for end-of-life care. Our program utilizes a "case management" framework which is a collaborative partnership with the patient to plan and coordinate progress towards a patient's defined goal of MAiD. To get connected, please complete our ***The End of Life Choices New York's Intake Form****.*

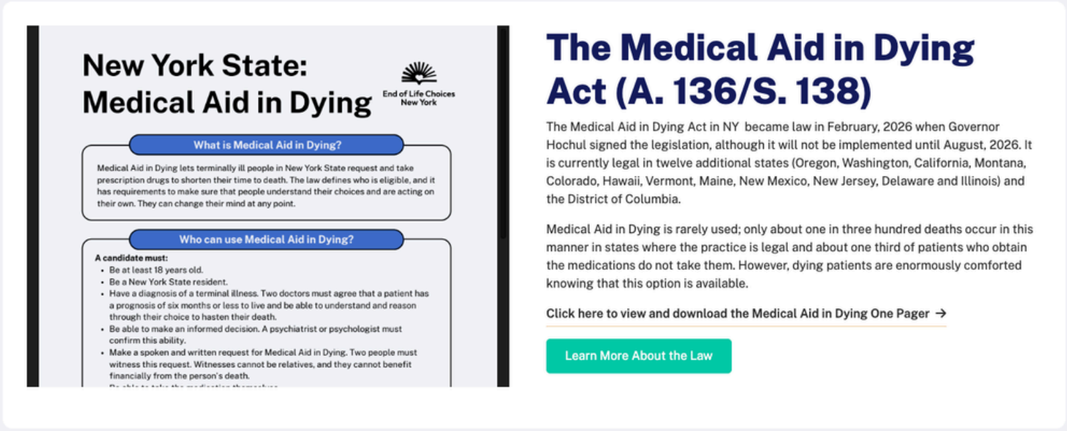
- ***The End of Life Choices New York's Intake Form*** *collects important information from patients to better understand their journey and to help us better navigate their end-of-life options and resources. If you are a patient considering Medical Aid in Dying, please use this form to get us started.*
  - *If you need help completing the intake, please reach out to us at info@eolcny.org or call us at 646-580-4387.*

EOLCNY's MAiD Patient Guide *shares more in-depth details of the Medical Aid in Dying process for New York State. This guide is available on our website for download.*

EOLCNY's MAiD One Pager *provides a short definition and basic eligibility information for Medical Aid in Dying.*

*** All of this information can be found on our website: https://endoflifechoicesny.org/medical-aid-in-dying/*







How to Access our Information and Intake Form

1. Go to endoflifechoicesny.org
2. Click on Plan Your Wishes
3. Click on Medical Aid in Dying
4. Click on EOLCNY Intake Form for Medical Aid in Dying Support
5. Complete the Intake Form
6. We will reach out within 2-3 days to discuss the details of your intake

Stats on Medical Aid in Dying in New York

Since August 5

As of 10.9.26



68

Eligible Intakes Received

Over 80 overall initial calls. Not everyone is eligible.



15

Confirmed Ingestions Through EOLCNY Referrals

There are several patients that have not come through our organization so that number is definitely higher by at least 10.



10

Independent Providers

This does not include facilities that are providing medical aid in dying for current patients.



6

Pharmacies

Compunding pharmacies across the state. Medications can be shipped.



22

Counties represented

Many requests are from NYC, but we have received requests from as far as Erie, Clinton and Chemung Counties.



72.5

Average age of patient considering medical aid in dying

The youngest person that has inquired to EOLCNY is 27. The oldest is 98.

Kaleidoscope of Stories and Journeys

Every patient has their own unique story and journey

- *Advancing illness or sudden diagnosis*
- *Family support and dynamics*
- *Religion and spirituality*
- *Practicality and logistics*
- *Their everyday experience of their illness*
- *Relationship with health care*
- *Cost considerations*
- *Choosing their aid-in-dying day*



For More Information…



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