



# Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD)

Our Catholic Response to Caring for the Dying

New York State law affirms conscience protections for religious facilities and individual clinicians.

*This document summarizes New York's MAiD law and Catholic Health's mission of consistent care, based on the Ethical and Religious Directives (ERDs), 7<sup>th</sup> Edition, and addresses complex topics.*

**Talk with your care team for individualized guidance.**

## If You Ask Us About MAiD

- We will listen to your goals, symptoms, and worries.
- We will explain our policy with compassion and continue all appropriate care.
- At your request, we will transfer records and coordinate discharge/transfer to a non-Catholic setting, ensuring continuity.

## What We Cannot Do

- Prescribe, dispense, or administer MAiD medications
- Record or witness MAiD requests or allow MAiD evaluations/ingestion on our premises
- Use staff time/resources to facilitate MAiD at Catholic Health

## Our Mission

We are called to reveal the healing love of Jesus to all.

## Our Vision

As your trusted partner, inspired by faith and committed to excellence, we lead the transformation of healthcare and create healthier communities.

## Our Values

Reverence, Compassion, Integrity, Innovation, Community, Excellence



27183 - REV 3/23/26



## Protections & Immunities for Physicians and Clinical Staff

The law explicitly states that no person shall qualify for MAiD based on age or disability. It also includes legal protections for medical professionals and health care providers. They cannot have their licenses revoked or be held civilly, administratively, or criminally liable for refusing to act for moral or religious reasons, and no medical care provider is under any legal duty or contractual obligation to participate in MAiD.

If a patient under our care requests medical aid in dying, we will assist in transferring that patient to another facility that is reasonably accessible and will proceed with their wishes.

## What is Medical Aid in Dying (MAiD)?

New York's MAiD law permits mentally competent, terminally ill adults with a prognosis of six months or less to request life-ending medication. The medication must be self-administered, and eligibility must be confirmed by two independent physicians. MAiD takes effect in New York on August 5, 2026.

## Patient Eligibility & Requests

The patient must reside in New York, and to help ensure the choice is informed, and truly their own, three separate requests are needed:

- 1) Verbal request
- 2) Written request witnessed by two individuals who will not benefit from their estate
- 3) Video or audio recorded request



## Mandatory Waiting Period & Mental Health Review

To protect patients and ensure informed decision-making, the law includes:

- A five-day waiting period between when the prescription is written and when it can be filled
- A mental health evaluation by a psychologist or psychiatrist (or, in certain situations, a neurologist) to confirm the patient's ability to make decisions and understand their options

## Protection Against Coercion

New York's law contains strong protection for patients:

- Anyone who could benefit financially from the patient's death is barred from serving as a witness or interpreter.
- Physicians must ensure the patient can self-administer the medication, preserving voluntariness.
- Religious or conscience-based medical providers may opt out.

## Our Catholic Commitment to You

At Catholic Health, every person is treated with dignity and compassion. While we do not participate in assisted suicide or euthanasia, **we remain fully committed to caring for your physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.**

We ensure comfort through proportionate pain and symptom relief, even when this may unintentionally shorten life. Hospice and palliative care remain essential expressions of love and support at the end of life.

- Expert pain and symptom management from palliative specialists
- Hospice and home-based support when appropriate
- Advance Care Planning and Medical Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (MOLST)
- Spiritual care for all faiths; sacraments for Catholics
- Clinical ethics consultation for difficult decisions, ensuring that care aligns with ethical principles, patient values, and organizational standards