



Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
27TH ANNUAL RURAL AND REMOTE MEDICINE COURSE
Halifax Nova Scotia • Halifax Convention Centre
APRIL 4 - 6, 2019

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SESSION 289

Providing Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in the Country: Joy, Bureaucracy and Burnout

Medical assistance in dying (MAiD) has been legal in Canada for over two years. Yet, there exists no reliable, coherent system for ensuring that rural Canadians have access to timely, organized assisted death. This is particularly true for home deaths. The provision of rural MAiD is reliant on individual rural practitioners operating MAiD practices off the corners of their desk. This is a recipe for burnout and disenchantment. Yet, MAiD can be a rewarding and even joyful part of a rural generalist practice. I will use a series of cases from my own practice to share the joy of this work while also highlighting the system gaps up in which I have been tangled.

1. Sharing insights from a growing rural MAiD practice through a series of cases.
2. Articulating the system gaps made clear by these cases.
3. Provide support to any rural providers interested in incorporating MAiD into their practice.