



COLLEGE OF
LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES
OF NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
LPNS - A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO QUALITY CARE

Physician Assisted Death – Update – June 15th, 2016

On June 9th, 2016, the Public Prosecutions Division, Department of Justice and Public Safety, Government of Newfoundland and Labrador released an INTERIM PRACTICE DIRECTIVE on Physician-Assisted Death.

This INTERIM PRACTISE DIRECTIVE provides protection for nurses and other members of the health care team involved with physician assisted death (PAD).

Specifically, the interim practise directive says “no prosecution pursuant to section 241 will be commenced or continued against physicians or any member of the health care team including pharmacists, nurses, other health professionals or their respective employers, who dispense a drug, provide physician-assisted death, or otherwise participate, under the direction of a physician, in a PAD that falls within the parameters described by the Supreme Court of Canada in *Carter 2015*.”

Retrieved June 15th, 2016 from

http://www.justice.gov.nl.ca/just/publications/pdf/dpp_practice_directive.pdf

If LPN’s are asked to participate in PAD, it is recommended that you contact the CLPNNL. At this time, CLPNNL provides the following guidelines:

1. LPN’s should only provide assistance in PAD under the direction of a physician.
2. LPN’s must not administer the substance that causes the death.
3. LPN’s must not provide the substance that will cause death to the client to self-administer.
4. LPN’s must document their involvement in PAD in accordance with the standards of practice and employer policy.