John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre

HEALTH ETHICS SEMINAR

2026-2027 SERIES

MAiD and Mental Illness: Competently Held Values and Rational Agency



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Thursday, 5 November 2026
12:00 - 13:00 MDT
ONLINE via Zoom application
Click to Register

In this presentation, I discuss the current state of the legislation and discourse surrounding the potential extension of MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying) to individuals for whom mental illness is the sole underlying condition. In doing so, I examine the ethical considerations informing the arguments for and against this extension ranging from traditional concerns in healthcare ethics regarding patient autonomy, justice, and dignity to social concerns surrounding practical implementation and the accessibility of alternative resources for individuals with mental illness. In addition, the potential for promoting or legitimizing certain social attitudes towards mental illness will be discussed. I go on to argue that the most crucial factors in determining whether such an extension of MAiD should go forward turns on deeper questions regarding competence and decision-making capacity, a question which invokes some of our most fundamental beliefs regarding rational agency.

More information: please call 780-492-6676, e-mail dossetor.centre@ualberta.ca or visit the **Dossetor Centre website**.

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EVERYONE WELCOME!! Pre-Registration Required

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