Irremediability and Responsibility: Why Should Canadian Doctors and Nurses Care About the Upcoming Liberalization of MAID Criteria?

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In March 2023 Health Canada announced a 12 month 'temporary exclusion' for Canadians requesting MAID and citing mental health as the sole request criterion. During this time, Canadian Public and Social Services have demonstrated an eagerness to incorporate MAID into the respective bureaucracies. In cases of particular concern, MAID is suggested as a solution to problems associated with the absence or inadequacies of services available to the individuals in question. Recent examples include MAID being recommended in the absence of palliative care in prison, MAID being recommended in response to dissatisfaction with PTSD treatment for multiple Canadian Veterans, and MAID being recommended in response to inadequate housing. In this discussion I will explain how these situations are not accidental errors of judgment, but are inevitable features of Bill C-39 and Health Canada's disingenuous interpretation of Supreme Court of Canada’s decision, and stewardship over MAID policy in general. I will conclude by considering the ramifications of the seemingly inevitable liberalization of MAID criteria on Canadian Health Professionals, as moral patients of MAID policy.

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