



The Interpreter's Role in Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) Process



WEBINAR OBJECTIVES

Define what Medical Assistance
in Dying (MAID) is



Review interpreter Do's and Don'ts



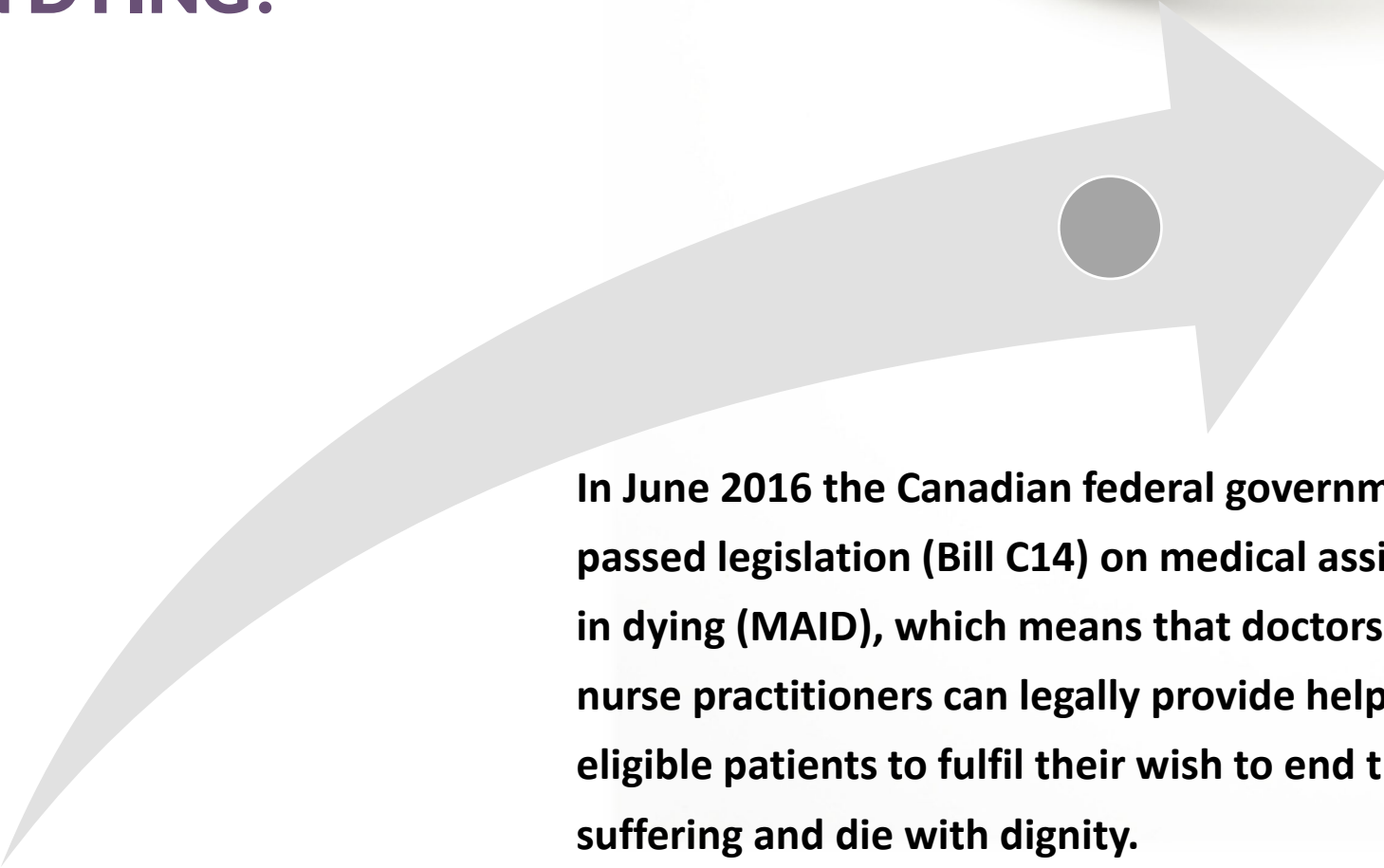
Discuss the role and responsibilities of an
interpreter in Medical Assistance in Dying
(MAID) settings



Present some of the ethical dilemmas
related to MAID assignments and their
solutions



WHAT IS MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING?



In June 2016 the Canadian federal government passed legislation (Bill C14) on medical assistance in dying (MAID), which means that doctors and nurse practitioners can legally provide help to eligible patients to fulfil their wish to end their suffering and die with dignity.



WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE MAID?

are eligible for government funded
health insurance in Canada (e.g.
OHIP);

have given a written **informed
consent** to receive MAID after
having been informed of other
means of relieving their suffering
and palliative care.

are at least **18 years of age**;

have made a **voluntary request** for
MAID of their own free will and
without any external pressure;

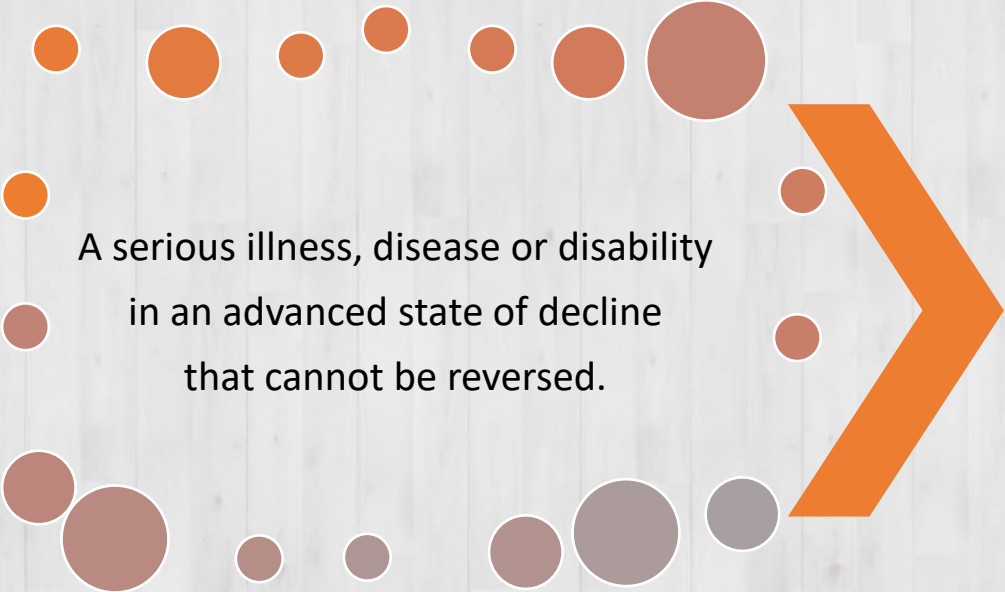
are **capable of making** health care
decisions;

are in an **advanced state** of
irreversible decline that is causing
enduring **physical or psychological
suffering** that is intolerable;

are suffering from a **grievous and
irremediable medical condition** (a
serious and incurable illness, disease
or disability);

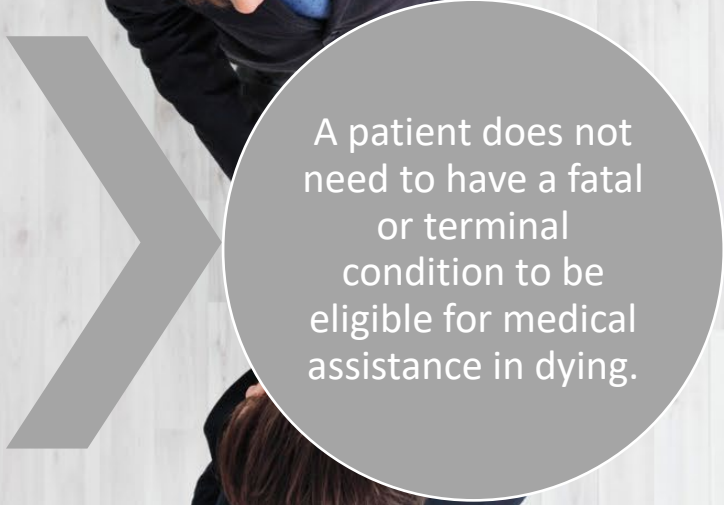


WHAT IS A GRIEVOUS AND IRREMEDIALE CONDITION?

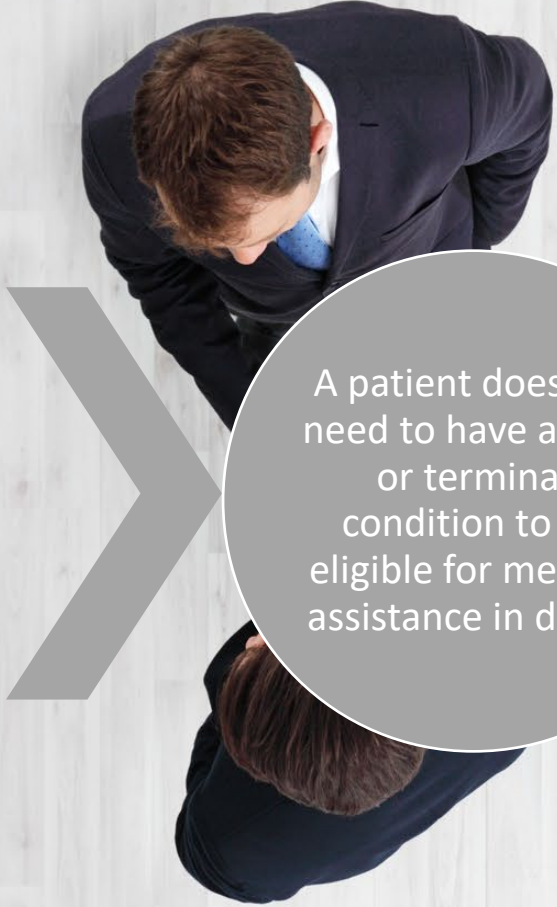


A serious illness, disease or disability
in an advanced state of decline
that cannot be reversed.

A patient must “experience
unbearable physical or mental
suffering from their illness,
disease, disability or state of
decline that cannot be relieved
under conditions that they
consider acceptable.



A patient does not
need to have a fatal
or terminal
condition to be
eligible for medical
assistance in dying.



MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING



Is MAID only provided in hospitals?

MAID can be provided anywhere: hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes and patient's private residence.



Who can provide MAID?

Only physicians and nurse practitioners.



How is MAID administered?

There are two ways to provide medical assistance in dying:

- **Clinician-administered** medical assistance in dying
- **Self-administered** medical assistance in dying

MAID PROCESS

Step 1 – A patient a written request for MAID.

Step 2 – An independent witness signs the written consent.

Step 3 – The assessment process is conducted by two independent practitioners.

Step 4 – A patient is given an opportunity to withdraw consent or sign a waiver of final consent.

Step 5 – Medical Assistance in Dying is provided.

Step 6 – The patient's death is registered and reported.

ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS FOR NOT REASONABLY FORESEEABLE DEATHS

One of the **two** practitioners who assess a patient's eligibility for MAID must have **expertise in the medical condition causing unbearable suffering**.

The person must be **informed of available and appropriate means to relieve their suffering**, including counselling services, mental health and disability support services, community services, and palliative care, and must be offered consultations with professionals who provide those services.

The eligibility assessments must take **at least 90 days (about 3 months)**, but this period can be shortened if the person is about to lose the capacity to make health care decisions, if both assessments have been completed.

Immediately before MAID is provided, the practitioner must give the person **an opportunity to withdraw** their request and ensure that they give consent.

THE INTERPRETER'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN DYING PROCESS

It is very important to understand that interpreters will usually be told if they are required to interpret in MAID context and, therefore, have an opportunity to turn down the assignment. **HOWEVER, the one exception is the initial inquiry.** There are no heads up for the initial inquiry. It may come up in any medical setting – could be a regular appointment of any kind where the patient brings this up.



THE INTERPRETER'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The role of the interpreter is to facilitate **effective direct communication** between a patient and a health care provider, to help ensure that they can understand each other even though they speak different languages.



Does the role of the interpreter differ in the context of MAID?

The role of the interpreter remains the same as in other health care settings. Interpreters should ensure that the **nuances** and **meaning** of words around end-of-life care are **accurately conveyed**, and that there is a **clear** and **precise interpretation** of the health care provider's questions and the patient's answers and vice versa. Interpreters are also required to maintain **impartiality** and **neutrality** and serve to **convey** the patient's **desires** and **expectations** as they hear them.

THE INTERPRETER'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In which settings related to MAID may interpretation happen?

Interpreters may find themselves working in hospitals, long-term care and retirement homes as well as at a patient's home. They also can be engaged through phone or virtual conference technology.

What types of interpretation may interpreters be expected to perform in MAID settings?

Consecutive interpretation for patients and health care providers (face to face, phone and VRI)

Sight translation of materials about the MAID process and the forms required to request MAID (Clinician Aid A)

Whispered simultaneous interpretation if more than one health care provider is present or if the patient is accompanied by a family member who will speak to a doctor in English.

THE INTERPRETER'S ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Which types of appointment can you expect to interpret in once you accept a MAID assignment?

- Initial inquiry about MAID meeting
- Eligibility assessment (primary and secondary if required)
- Meeting at which the written request to MAID is signed before a witness
- Developing plan for MAID meeting
- Administration of MAID appointment

What are the responsibilities of an interpreter in MAID settings?

- Introducing oneself and explaining the interpreter's role to the parties (remember the interpreter's introduction?)
- Facilitating effective direct communication
- Managing the pace of communication and turn-taking
- Respecting principles of privacy and confidentiality and do not disclose personal health information they may get exposed to

INTERPRETER DO's AND DON'Ts

DO ask about the setting of MAID assignment (eligibility assessment, filling the medical request form, administering the medication)

DO make sure you have all assignment details available (including location or link to join, start time, site contact)

DO arrive on time and make sure you have enough time to find parking, room or site contact for this assignment

DO always remain impartial and neutral

DO introduce yourself and make sure you always follow the Code of Ethics

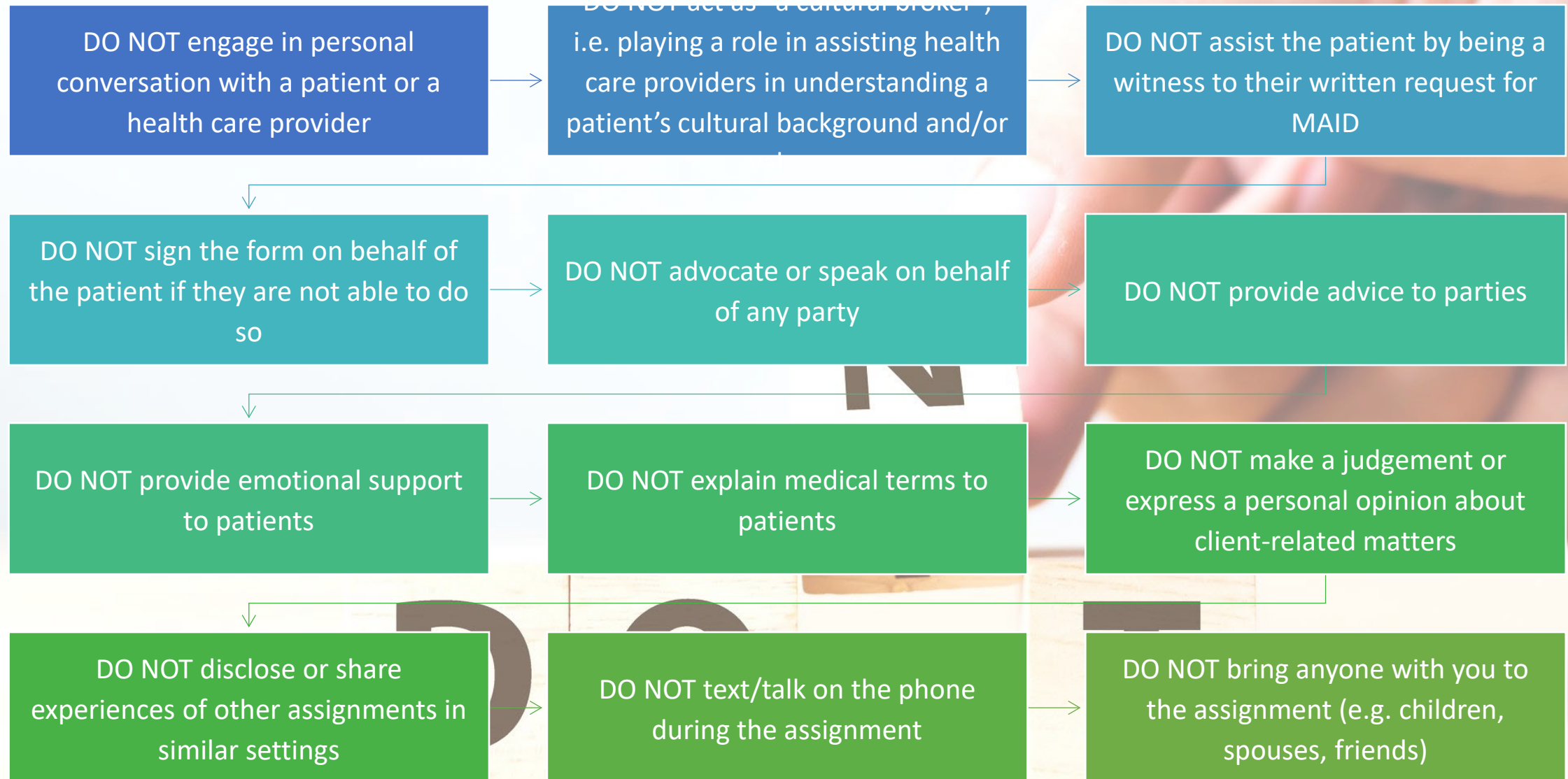
DO prepare for the assignment by reviewing relevant materials and polish your terminology

DO maintain the confidentiality of information accessed during the assignment

DO ask for clarification

DO ask the parties to slow down if the pace is too fast and it compromises your interpretation

INTERPRETER DO's AND DON'Ts



ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MAID CONTEXT

In order to successfully fulfill this role, the interpreter's performance is governed by **8 ethical principles**.



ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MAID CONTEXT

Accuracy and Fidelity

Interpreters strive to render all messages in their entirety accurately, as faithfully as possible and to the best of their ability without addition, distortion, omission or embellishment of the meaning.

Confidentiality

Interpreters will not disclose and will treat as confidential all information learned, either uttered or written in the performance of their professional duties, while adhering to relevant requirements regarding disclosure.

Impartiality

Interpreters strive to maintain impartiality by showing no preference or bias to any party involved in the interpreted encounter.

Respect for Persons

Interpreters demonstrate respect towards all parties involved in the interpreted encounter.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MAID CONTEXT

Maintaining Role Boundaries

Interpreters strive to perform their professional duties within their prescribed role and refrain from personal involvement.

Accountability

Interpreters are responsible for the quality of interpretation provided and accountable to all parties and the organizations engaging the interpreter's service.

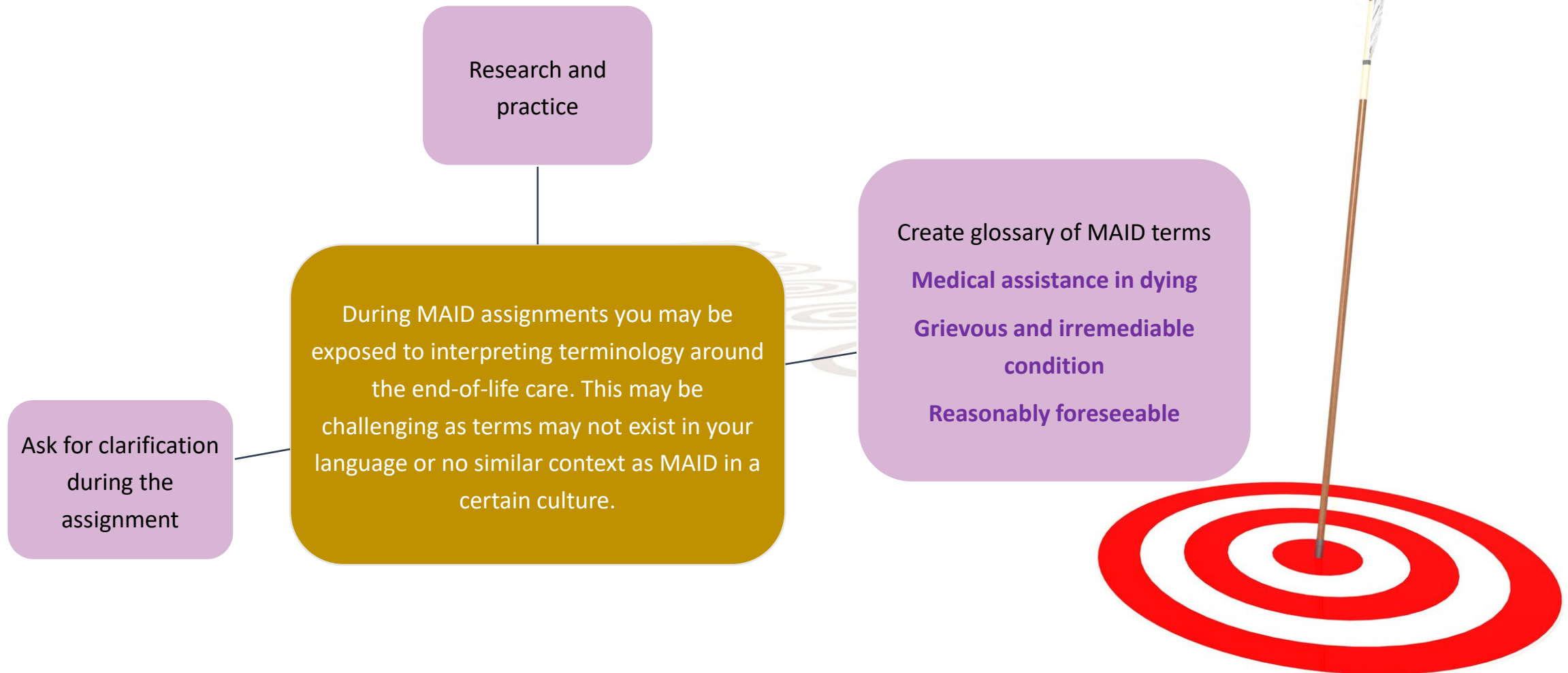
Professionalism

Interpreters at all times act in a professional and ethical manner.

Continued Competence

Interpreters commit themselves to lifelong learning in recognition that languages, individuals, and services evolve and change over time and a competent interpreter strives to maintain the delivery of quality interpretation.

ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MAID CONTEXT – MAINTAINING ACCURACY



ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MAID CONTEXT – MAINTAINING IMPARTIALITY AND NEUTRALITY

- Solution: **Breathe deeply** and do your best to **maintain a neutral tone of voice**; think about the wellbeing of the patient requesting MAID. After the appointment, you can seek some emotional support or choose other ways of venting.

You will be required to interpret emotionally challenging content that might challenge your own beliefs and values.



ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MAID CONTEXT – MAINTAINING PROFESSIONAL BOUNDARIES

Interpreters may be called to interpret for someone who they know outside the professional environment.

Interpreters may have desire to provide emotional comfort to a patient.

Interpreters should notify the client (health care provider or site contact).

Remember you must remain neutral in order to ensure accurate and non-biased transfer of messages.



ETHICAL DILEMMAS IN MAID CONTEXT – MAINTAINING CONFIDENTIALITY



Interpreters are bound by confidentiality and may not disclose any information learned during the appointment.

Due to the intense and sensitive nature of MAID assignments, it may be hard to keep everything to yourself.

- Do not share any details with your relatives and friends.

If you need to talk to someone to get emotional support

- Ask your interpreting services coordinator about the options you have.

Important! The only instance you may violate this ethical principle is when someone (a health care professional, a family member, etc.) affect their decision to request MAID.

VICARIOUS TRAUMA AND GETTING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

- It is the absorbing of another person's trauma, the transformation of the helper's inner sense of identity and experience. It is what happens to your physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual health in response to someone else's traumatic history. **Vicarious trauma can affect your perception of the world around you.** Interpreters seem to experience vicarious trauma differently than other professionals providing aid since they do more than witness the trauma; they **channel** it.

What is vicarious trauma?



VICARIOUS TRAUMA AND GETTING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

What to do if you experience

- Sadness, emotional
- Physical pain
- Nightmares
- Insomnia
- Keep thinking about the patient after the assignment

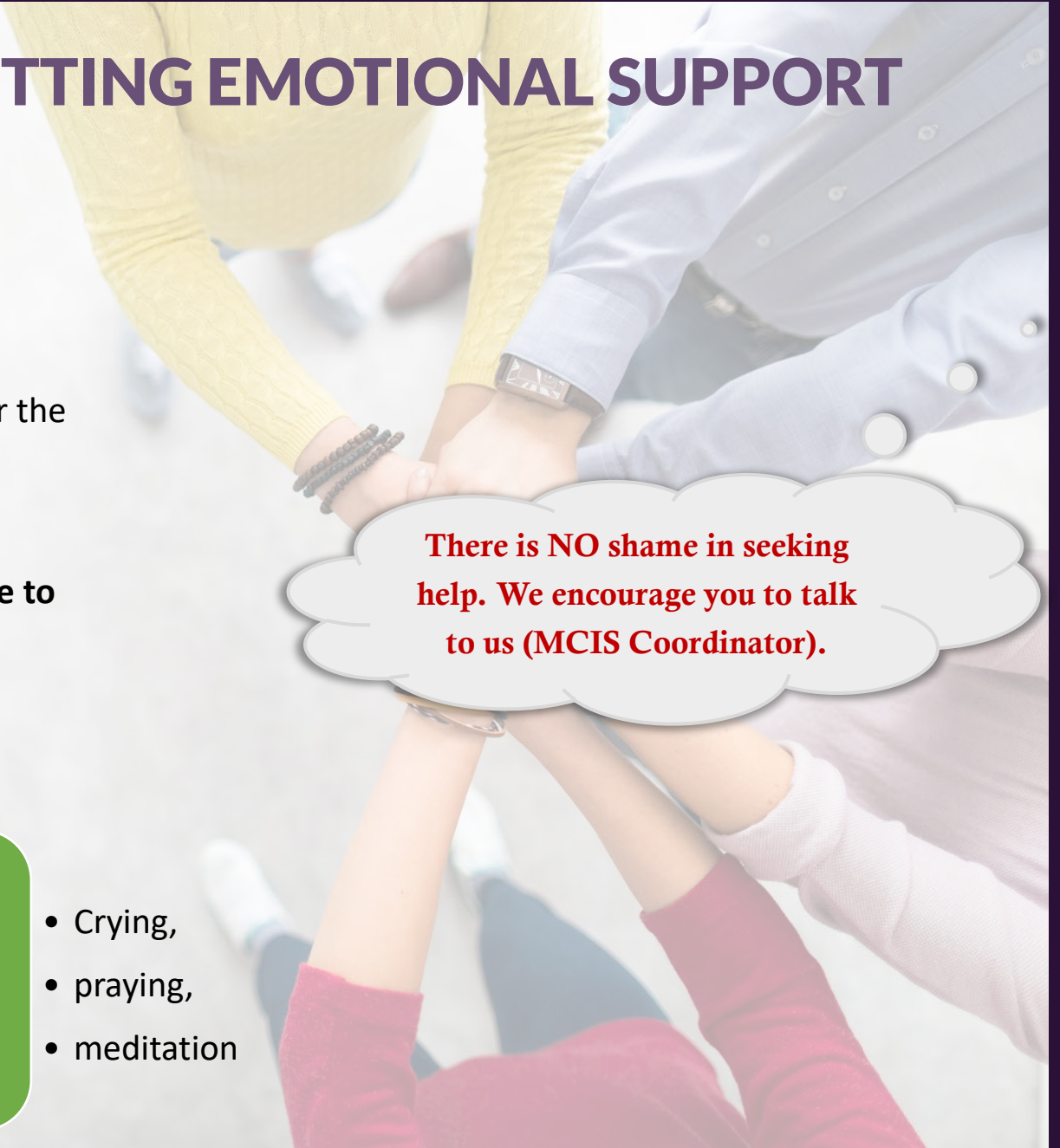
Do not keep the emotions to yourself

- Repeated exposure to these can lead to mental issues

Acknowledge these emotions and feelings and develop some coping strategies

- Crying,
- praying,
- meditation

There is NO shame in seeking help. We encourage you to talk to us (MCIS Coordinator).



THE INTERPRETER'S INTRODUCTION



THE INTERPETER'S INTRODUCTION

My name is (your first name), I am the (your target language) interpreter sent by MCIS.

I will be interpreting everything said as faithfully as possible.

I will be interpreting in first person and would ask you to speak directly to each other in short sentences.

I may interrupt if necessary for clarification; I may also take notes to aid my memory.

At the end of the session, I will destroy the notes.

I will remain impartial throughout the assignment.

Everything said will remain confidential.

Do I have permission to be your interpreter?

I will now introduce myself in (the second language of conversation).

IMPORTANCE OF THE INTERPETER'S INTRODUCTION

Establishes trust and transparency

Clarifies the interpreter's role

Sets the tone for impartiality

Reinforces confidentiality

Contact us at training@mcis.on.ca



Thank you!

