

Dear Referring Physician,

It is my deep regret to inform you that I am no longer accepting referrals for Medical Assistance in Dying. I continue to offer all of the aspects of a full service General Internal Medicine Consultant.

Recent changes to the MSP Physician Fee Schedule have made MAID economically untenable and I unfortunately can no longer justify including it in my practice. Existing patients will be provided for but no new patients will be seen.

As a matter of information, the MAID procedure typically takes 3.5 hours and involves a series of steps including but not limited to:

1. Attending a community pharmacy to pick up the meds (can only be issued to the prescribing doctor)
2. Driving to patient residence
3. Performing repeated competency assessment and repeated informed consent
4. Answering questions
5. Setting the IV
6. Completing the procedure itself
7. Aftercare for surviving friends and family
8. Completion of 17 pages of paperwork
9. Driving back to the pharmacy
10. Return to the office to fax paperwork to coroner
11. After care for self (these are high impact, stressful procedures)
12. Deal with any long term medico-legal consequences

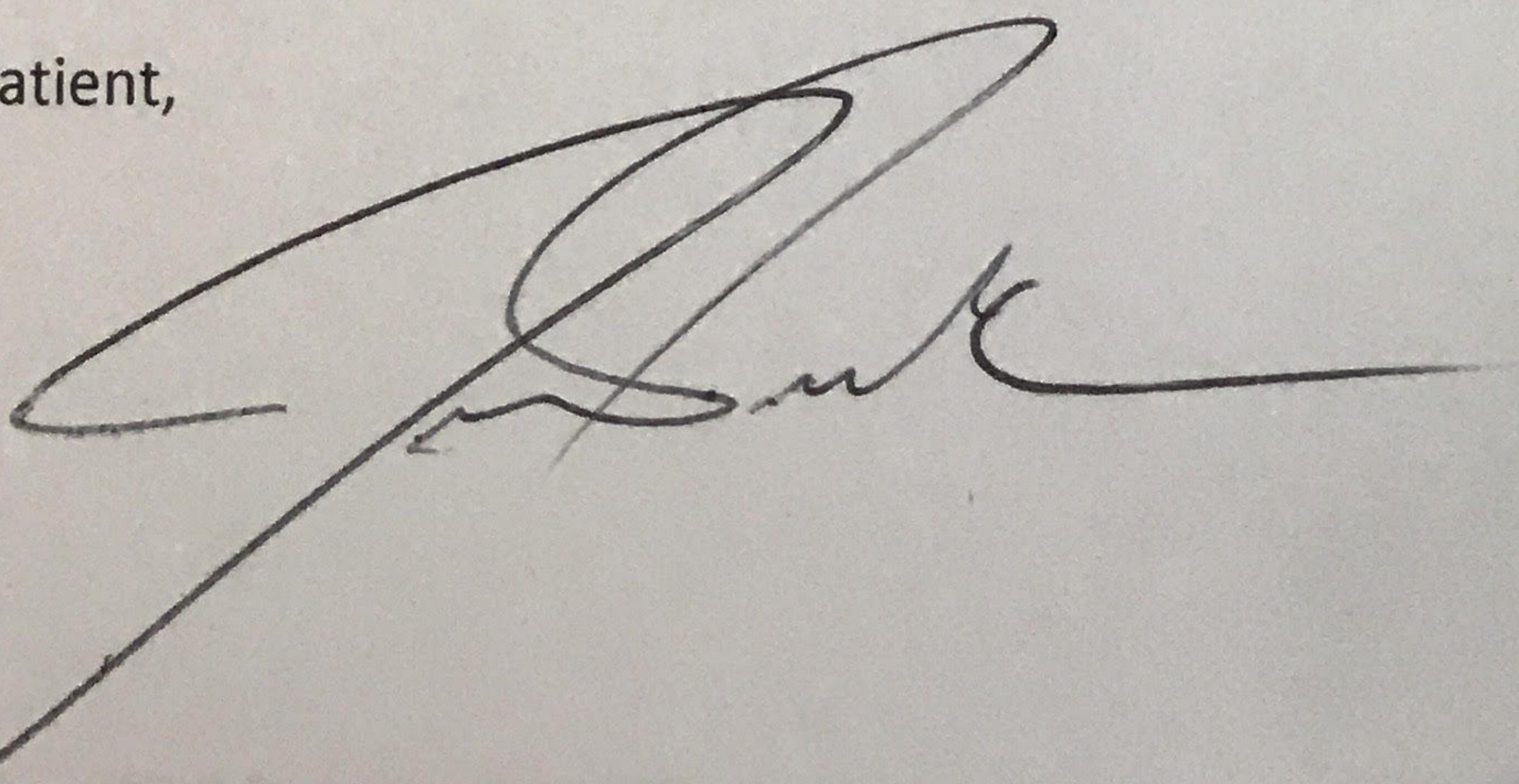
The Doctors of BC and MSP have deemed that this entire procedure and all ancillary services are worth a total capped at \$200. This works out to roughly \$57.12 per hour prior to overhead expenses. Furthermore, the Province of British Columbia refuses to fund travel of the prescriber (time and distance) to distant locations that do not have prescribers.

It is a sad statement about how BC treats its most vulnerable and chooses to allocate funding that there is money for payment of 7 figure average incomes to certain physician specialties but grossly inadequate payments to support the provision of this constitutionally guaranteed service such that after expenses remuneration of a MAID provider is roughly \$25 per hour.

It is uncertain whether any physicians will continue to provide MAID services under this situation, however, please check the VIHA intranet MAID page (found under Clinical Resources) to see if any other doctors are offering the service and if so how to contact them. It is entirely possible that this service will cease to be offered in British Columbia as there is no conceivable way it makes economic sense in any medical practice. If your patient has questions, please have them inquire with MSP or the BCMA.

My sincere apologies to you and your patient,

Jesse A Pewarchuk, MD FRCPC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jesse A Pewarchuk', written over a horizontal line.