

Table 23-4: Reasons Given for Patient Requests for Assistance with Dying

1. Future loss of control
2. Being a burden
3. Being dependent on others for some or all personal care
4. Loss of dignity
5. Being restricted to bed > 50% of the time
6. Experiencing severe depression or depressed mood
7. Experiencing severe suffering
8. Experiencing severe physical discomfort other than pain
9. Experiencing severe pain
10. Worries about medical costs

Source: Back AL, Wallace JI, Starks HE, Pearlman RA. Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia in Washington state. *JAMA* 275:919-25, 1996.