

Table 11-3: Spectrum of Aberrant Drug-Related Behaviors Occurring during Treatment with Narcotic Analgesics

More Suggestive of Drug Abuse	Less Suggestive of Drug Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reports of 'lost' or 'stolen' prescriptions • Selling prescription drugs • Prescription forgery • Stealing drugs from others • Injecting oral formulations • Obtaining prescription drugs from nonmedical sources • Concurrent abuse of alcohol or illicit drugs • Repeated dose escalations or similar noncompliance despite multiple warnings • Repeated visits to other clinicians or emergency rooms without informing the prescriber • Drug-related deterioration in function at work, in the family, or socially • Repeated resistance to changes in therapy despite evidence of adverse drug effects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggressive complaining about the need for more drugs • Drug-hoarding during periods of reduced symptoms • Requesting specific drugs • Openly acquiring similar drugs from other medical sources • Occasional unsanctioned dose escalation or other noncompliance • Unapproved use of the drug to treat another symptom • Reporting psychic effects not intended by the clinician • Resistance to a change in therapy associated with tolerable adverse effects • Intense expressions of anxiety about recurrent symptoms

Source: Passik SD, Portenoy RK. Substance abuse issues in palliative care. In Berger A, ed. *Principles and Practices of Supportive Oncology*. Philadelphia: Lippincott-Raven Publishers, 1998.