

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.