

Table 3-5: Differential Diagnosis for Aberrant Drug-Related Behaviors

Categories are not mutually exclusive

- Addiction (substance dependence disorder)
- “Pseudo-addiction”
- Psychiatric disorder associated with impulsive or aberrant drug-taking
- Personality disorder, including borderline and psychopathic personality disorders
- Depressive disorder
- Anxiety disorder
- Encephalopathy with confusion about appropriate therapeutic regimen
- Criminal intent
- Other including “normal” or “reasonable” behavior, especially for behavior “less” suggestive of addiction

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. Reproduced with permission. Copyright 1998.