



The Needs of the Dying Patient

Those who are facing the end of their life due to a progressive disease experience many emotional and intellectual reactions. They may have fears, concerns and worries about what is happening to them and what is to be expected. As well, their bodies may be undergoing dramatic physical changes as the disease process takes its toll on their health. The dying patient has many needs, which must be attended to in order to provide good palliative care. Some of these needs are listed below.

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| PHYSIOLOGICAL | - Good symptom control. |
| SAFETY | - A feeling of security |
| BELONGING | - The need to be needed
- The need to not be a burden. |
| LOVE | - Expressions of affection, human contact (touch). |
| UNDERSTANDING | - Opportunity to discuss process of dying.
- Explanation about the disease and its symptoms |
| ACCEPTANCE | - Regardless of mood and willingness to socialize. |
| SELF-ESTEEM | - Involvement in decision-making, especially as physical dependence on others increases.
- Opportunity to give as well as receive. |

M. Downing, Medical Care of the Dying 1989



Help Me
Listen to Me
Stay With Me
Remember Me

Dr. Charles Corr