

Needs of the Dying

Unconditional acceptance

To be treated like a living person

Reassurance I am normal

Explain and validate the emotional upheavals I am going through

Listen to my life and my thoughts and emotions without judgment

Presence + Awareness

Tune into me

Come to my side without an agenda

Really listen - even to what I am not saying

Respect and reverence: see me as a 'whole person'

Help with suffering and pain - respect wishes

Fear of deterioration and dependence

Be given full information and choices regarding my care

Control environment - feel at home, children, meals, pets, privacy

Manage my pain well and enable me to be alert

Ask if I want to be informed when illness is incurable and when dying

Help resolve life and find meaning

Listen to my life story, help find what I have accomplished

Clear old unfinished business

Help with practical details, be an advocate for my wishes re medical care

Give away belongings

If I can view my dying process as a 'gift' to loved ones - makes this period meaningful

Help me find something noble I can do even in dying

Help support my family and friends

My biggest fear is that they will abandon me

Support them well, so they can give me permission to let go

Encourage healing and reconciliation

Need family to reassure me that they'll be fine after I'm gone

Identify guardian for children: leave letters or taped messages for them
Encourage them to really express their love and say good-bye before the moment of death

Love and affection

Touch - most people crave appropriate touch while ill; not at time of death

Share joy and humor and good memories

Nurturing things: books, music, art, massage

Reliable, honest friends

Good communication, with vulnerability and openness between us

Appropriate spiritual guidance

Remind me of my spiritual beliefs and practice

Someone confident, positive

Help me explore my own wisdom

Offer ideas and methods if asked