Kübler-Ross: Stages of Dying (Grief)

- Denial
  - Learning of the terminal illness, the person denies its seriousness.
- Anger
  - Anger at having to die without doing all one wants to do
- Bargaining
  - Attempts to bargain for extra time
- Depression
  - When denial, anger, and bargaining fail, the person becomes depressed.
- Acceptance
  - State of peace about upcoming death

Evaluation of Kübler-Ross's Theory

- Not a fixed sequence
- Not all people display each stage.
- Stages are coping strategies that anyone may use in the face of a threat.
- Too limited; dying people react in many other ways.
- Dying patients' feelings are removed from the contexts that grant them meaning.

Hospice Approach

- Comprehensive support for dying and their families
  - Family and patient as a unit
  - Team care
  - Palliative (comfort) care
  - Home or homelike
  - Bereavement help
### Forms of Euthanasia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Least Active</th>
<th>Most Active</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Involuntary Active</strong></td>
<td>Ending a suffering patient's life without permission</td>
<td>Ending a suffering patient's life at the patient's request</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Assisted Suicide</strong></td>
<td>Medical staff provide means for patient to end own life</td>
<td>Helping a suffering patient take his or her own life</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Voluntary Active</strong></td>
<td>Medical staff or others act to end life at patient's request</td>
<td>Ending a suffering patient's life without permission</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Voluntary Passive</strong></td>
<td>Withdraw treatment</td>
<td>Least Active</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Involuntary Passive</strong></td>
<td>Medical staff end life without patient's consent</td>
<td>Most Active</td>
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### Voluntary Passive Euthanasia
- Life-sustaining treatment is withheld or withdrawn.
- **Advance medical directive**
  - Written statement of desired medical treatment for the incurably ill
  - Living will
    - Treatments a person does or does not want in case of a terminal illness, coma, or other near-death situation
  - **Durable power of attorney for health care**
    - Appointment of another person to make health care decisions
  - Health care proxy
  - Substitute decision maker (if a patient failed to provide an advance medical directive while competent)

### Voluntary Active Euthanasia
- At patient's request, doctor acts to end suffering
- **Supporters**
  - believe it is the most compassionate option for terminally ill.
- **Opponents**
  - stress the moral difference between letting die and killing.
  - argue that involving doctors in taking the lives of suffering patients may impair trust in health professionals.
  - Legalizing this practice could lead to broadening euthanasia.
Assisted Suicide

- Doctor provides drugs for patient to use
- Legal in few nations, only in Oregon in U.S.
- Few use
  - .1% in Oregon
- Highly controversial
  - About half disapprove
  - Some find option comforting

Bereavement, Grief, Mourning

- Bereavement
  - Experience of losing a loved one by death
- Grief (Griefstricken)
  - Intense physical and psychological distress
- Mourning
  - Culturally specified expression of the bereaved person's thoughts and feelings