



Intellectual Developmental Disorder (Intellectual Disability)

In the upcoming text revision of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR), the diagnosis of intellectual developmental disorder (intellectual disability) is revised from the DSM-5 diagnosis.

Rationale for Change

The term “intellectual developmental disorder” is used to clarify the disorder’s relationship with the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Diseases, eleventh revision (ICD-11) Classification system, which uses the term “disorders of intellectual development.” The equivalent term “intellectual disability” is placed in parentheses for continued use.

DSM-5-TR includes in the “Diagnostic Features” section updated text that removes a phrase contained in DSM-5 that appears inadvertently to change the diagnostic criteria for Intellectual Disability to add a fourth criterion. Another change in the same section included revising the DSM-5 text to communicate the idea that although one should not be bound narrowly to the 65-75 IQ score range, the diagnosis would not be appropriate for those with substantially higher IQ scores.

Criteria of Other Disorders

References to “intellectual developmental disorder (intellectual disability)” were updated in other disorders’ criteria to reflect the use of the new terminology. Examples include:

- Unspecified intellectual developmental disorder (intellectual disability)
- Language disorder
- Social (pragmatic) communication disorder
- Autism spectrum disorder
- Developmental coordination disorder
- Stereotypic movement disorder

DSM is the manual used by clinicians and researchers to diagnose and classify mental disorders. The American Psychiatric Association (APA) will publish DSM-5-TR in 2022.

APA is a national medical specialty society whose more than 37,400 physician members specialize in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and research of mental illnesses, including substance use disorders. Visit the APA at www.psychiatry.org. For more information, please contact APA Communications at 202-459-9732 or press@psych.org.

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