



Functional Neurological Symptom Disorder (Conversion Disorder)

In Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5), the term “Functional Neurological Symptom Disorder” was added in parentheses after the DSM-IV term “Conversion Disorder.” In the DSM-5 Text Revision (DSM-5-TR), the terms are reversed so that Conversion Disorder is in parentheses.

Rationale for Change

The decision to reverse the parenthetical order for the disorder was based on the following reasons:

- Functional neurological (symptom) disorder is the term of choice for the international research and patient community.
- Conversion disorder is falling from use by researchers and clinicians in the field.
- Conversion disorder is not an etiologically neutral term

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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