

Attenuated Psychosis Syndrome

In the upcoming Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition, text revision (DSM-5-TR), criterion A of attenuated psychosis syndrome (APS) was modified to enhance its clarity.

Rationale for Change

Criterion A in the DSM-5 definition of the attenuated psychosis syndrome (APS) included the phrase “with relatively intact reality testing.” This caused confusion and logical inconsistency in the criterion as it defined delusions and hallucinations, forms of reality distortion, with intact reality testing. To avoid such confusion, the phrase “with relatively intact reality testing” has been removed and the three symptoms (i.e., attenuated forms of delusion, hallucination, and disorganized speech) have been defined more accurately, using a “gatekeeper” to distinguish the attenuated from the non-attenuated form.

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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