



In the upcoming text revision of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR), the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder is revised from the DSM-5 diagnosis. In addition to text changes throughout the disorder's description, which reflect updated literature and advances in knowledge, the most noticeable change is to the diagnostic criteria, specifically criterion A.

Rationale for Change

Criterion A phrase “as manifested by the following” was revised to read “as manifested by all of the following” to improve the intent and clarity of the wording. The revision by the work group was consistent with the intent of the DSM-5 work group for autism spectrum disorder to maintain a high diagnostic threshold by requiring “all of the following” and not “any of the following” as could be mistakenly inferred from the previous wording of the criterion.

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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