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Glossary of Psychology Terms

In recent years contact with attorneys reveals they tend to dislike taking deposition testimony from psychologists and psychiatrists. Basically, these attorneys believe that the psych doctor has so much knowledge about their subject matter that they are unapproachable on a cross-examination. Carrying out the thought a little further what is likely going on here is that psychologists and psychiatrists use so many different terms and concepts that do not have a generally understood meaning that they can easily dance around the true issues or appear to be unclear. One way of leveling this playing field is to clarify or define those concepts. Hence, as a free self-help resource, a glossary of psychology terms is provided below.

Sincerely,

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AAA

Acute Stress Disorder (308.3) - a disorder characterized by anxiety, dissociative and other symptoms that occur within one month after exposure to an extreme traumatic stressor – if it persists for longer than a month it is likely to be diagnosed as a Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Adjustment Disorders - are a class of disorders characterized by significant emotional or behavioral signs and/or symptoms in the form of marked distress that occurs in response to an identifiable psychosocial stressor and develops within three months after the onset of that stressor

Adjustment Disorder With Anxiety (309.24) - an Adjustment Disorder that is characterized by psychopathological anxiety in which the predominant manifestations are such signs and/or symptoms as unrealistic fears and/or worries, phobic avoidance, feelings of threat, danger, unpredictability, uncertainty or terror as well as complaints of chest tightness or pain, shortness of breath, heart palpitations, racing heartbeats, choking and/or smothering, diarrhea, frequent urination, tingling sensations in the extremities, dizziness, lightheadedness, cold sweats, hot flashes, dry mouth, shaking, jitteriness and/or trembling - other frequently accompanying behaviors include fidgeting, restlessness, hand wringing, a strained voice, tremulousness, tension, motor hyperactivity, jumpiness, autonomic hyperactivity, vigilance, scanning and/or poor reality testing

Adjustment Disorder With Depressed Mood (309.0) - an Adjustment Disorder that is characterized by clinical depression in which the predominant manifestations are signs and/or symptoms of a depressed mood as exhibited by thoughts and feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, helplessness, incompetence, self-reproach, guilt, pessimism, failure, a loss of interest in pleasure, demoralization and thoughts of death and/or suicide – some behaviors associated with a clinical depression are fatigue, weight changes when not dieting or attempting to gain weight, insomnia, frustration, anger a decreased libido,

reduced cognitive functioning, psychomotor retardation or agitation, attention deficits, sadness, tearfulness, irritability, indecisiveness and evidence of social withdrawal - see also Depression

Adjustment Disorder With Mixed Anxiety and Depressed Mood (309.28) - an Adjustment Disorder that is characterized by a clinical depression along with psychopathological anxiety – see an Adjustment Disorder With Depressed Mood and an Adjustment Disorder With Anxiety

affect - observable behavior or signs indicative of an individual's subjective feelings or mood (contrast with "mood")

Affective Disorder - another name for a Mood Disorder

agnosia - the failure to recognize or identify objects despite intact sensory function

Agoraphobia - the occurrence of anxiety or fear about being in places or situations from which escape might be difficult and/or embarrassing and/or in which assistance might not be available in the event of a Panic Attack

Agoraphobia Without History of Panic Disorder (300.22) - a disorder in which the individual presents with anxiety about being in places or situations from which escape might be difficult and/or embarrassing and/or in which help might not be available in the event of having unexpected "panic-like symptoms" like those experienced in a Panic Attack, despite his/her not having Panic Attacks or a Panic Disorder

aggravation - an increase in the signs and/or symptoms of a physical or psychiatric disorder – in workers' compensation in California the increase in the signs and/or symptoms is due to an industrial cause

Alcohol Abuse (305.00) - a maladaptive pattern of alcohol use that leads to clinically significant impairment and distress as shown by at least one of the following: a failure to fulfill some major role, such as going to work,

recurrently using alcohol in a situation in which it is physically hazardous, having recurrent legal problems relating to alcohol use, and continued use despite persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems

all reasonable medical probability - more than half the time – anything that has a probability of being true more than 50% of the time

alogia - as seen in Schizophrenia it is observed as an impoverishment of thought and/or speech

amenorrhea - the absence or the abnormal stoppage of menses

amitryptiline - a tricyclic antidepressant (TCA) sold under the brand names of Elavil, Tryptizol, Laroxyl, Endep, Vanatrip, Sarotex, Lentizol that is also used to treat migraines, tension headaches, anxiety attacks and some schizophrenic symptoms

amnesic disorders - a group of disorders characterized by the loss of previously established memories due to the effects of a general medical condition or a chemical substance

anhedonia - a loss of interest in pleasure

Anorexia Nervosa (307.1) - a disorder characterized by a refusal to maintain a minimally normal body weight and an intense fear of gaining weight along with a significant disturbance in perception of body size and/or shape

Antisocial Personality Disorder (301.7) - a Personality Disorder characterized by a pervasive pattern of behavior that demonstrates a disregard for, as well as a violation of, the rights of others that began in childhood or early adolescence and has continued into adulthood - these individuals are frequently labeled psychopaths or sociopaths - see also Personality Disorders

anxiety - a mental state that when abnormal may be characterized by such signs and/or symptoms as unrealistic fears and/or worries, phobic avoidance, feelings of threat, danger, unpredictability, uncertainty or terror as well as physical complaints of chest tightness or pain, shortness of breath, heart palpitations, racing heartbeats, choking and/or smothering, diarrhea, frequent urination, tingling sensations in the extremities, dizziness, lightheadedness, cold sweats, hot flashes, dry mouth, shaking, jitteriness and/or trembling that are often accompanied by such behaviors

such as fidgeting, restlessness, hand wringing, a strained voice, tremulousness, tension, motor hyperactivity, jumpiness, autonomic hyperactivity, vigilance, scanning and/or poor reality testing

Anxiety Disorders - clinically significant behavioral or psychological patterns of distress and/or disability that are characterized by signs and/or symptoms of anxiety

anxiolytic - a drug used for the treatment of anxiety

Anxiety Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition (293.89) - a disorder characterized by clinically significant anxiety that is judged to be due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition such as hyperthyroidism, congestive heart failure, pulmonary embolisms and arrhythmias, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, neoplasms, vestibular dysfunctions and encephalitis

Anxiety Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (300.00) - an Adjustment Disorder characterized by symptoms of psychopathological anxiety or phobic avoidance that does not meet the criteria for another Anxiety Disorder

anomia - a deterioration of expressive language functioning in which an individual has difficulty producing the names of individuals and objects – aphasic speech may be vague or empty, with long, roundabout or circular phrases and excessive use of terms of indefinite references, such as “thing” and “it”

aphasia - a general term for impairment in language functioning, ranging from a complete inability to speak (expressive or Broca’s aphasia) to difficulty with particular aspects of language, such as comprehending spoken or written words

apraxia - the impaired ability to execute learned, purposeful movements although there is no paralysis or other motor or sensory impairment and the person understands the task’s requirements - associated with deficits in motor system planning

ataxia - lack of coordination or stability in gait or other movements

attention - an individual’s ability to regard a specific aspect of their environment with none or minimal distraction – contrast with concentration

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder - a persistent pattern of inattention and/or hyperactivity-impulsivity, some of which has occurred before the age of 7 along with evidence of an interference with developmentally appropriate functioning

auditory hallucination - the perception of sounds without an auditory stimulus

autism - a pervasive developmental disorder characterized by a major impairment in social interaction and communication, and stereotyped or restricted patterns of behavior, interests and activities that occur before the age of 3

auto-erotic asphyxia - death inadvertently produced by a type Sexual Masochism that requires oxygen deprivation by, for example, the use of a noose or a plastic bag to produce a decrease in brain oxygenation that results in an enhanced sexual excitation – see also hypoxiphilia

autonomic arousal - arousal or increased activity of the autonomic nervous system, associated with bodily functions such as increased breathing, perspiration or heart rate

autonomic hyperactivity - overactivity of the autonomic nervous system

autonomic nervous system - that part of the nervous system that controls involuntary and vegetative systems out of the level of consciousness such as the cardiovascular, digestive, respiratory and sexual arousal systems

Avoidant Personality Disorder (301.82) - a Personality Disorder characterized by an all-encompassing or pervasive pattern of social inhibition, feelings of inadequacy, and hypersensitivity to the negative evaluations of others – see also Personality Disorder

avolition - a sign and/or a symptom occurring in Schizophrenia that is observed as an inability to initiate or sustain purposeful activities

Axis Diagnosis in the DSM-IV-TR - a system used to provide a different set of information in five different axes or categories

Axis I - the axis on which the doctor provides information about any clinical disorder or other non-disorders or conditions that may be a focus of attention – exceptions are Personality Disorders and Mental Retardation, which are not coded or discussed on Axis I, but on Axis II

Axis II - the axis on which Personality Disorders and Mental Retardation are specified

Axis III - the axis on which general medical conditions relevant to an understanding of the patient's mental disorder or disorders is specified

Axis IV - the axis on which any psychosocial or environmental problems relevant to an understanding of the patient's mental disorder or disorders are specified

Axis V - the axis on which is presented the person's current and highest level of Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score in the past year

BBB

Bereavement (V62.82) - a condition that is not a mental or psychological disorder but is a focus of clinical attention that has occurred as the result of an individual's reaction to the death of a significant person in one's life - Bereavement may have signs and/or symptoms analogous to a clinical depression but a Depressive Disorder is not diagnosed unless the signs and/or symptoms present for an unrealistically long period of time

biofeedback - sometimes referred to as biofeedback training - the use of biomechanical or electronic transducers for measuring physiological processes which the individual tries to modify in order to achieve some psychotherapeutic effect

Bipolar Disorders - a group of disorders that used to be incorporated under the diagnostic category called Manic-Depressive Illness and are characterized by major changes in moods that are abnormally elevated and/or depressed

Bipolar I Disorder - a disorder that is characterized by a clinical presentation in which there are one or more Manic Episodes or Mixed Episodes – in a Manic Episode there is a distinct period during which there is an abnormally and persistently elevated, expansive or irritable mood – in a Mixed Episode there is a period of at least one week during which time the criteria for a Manic Episode and a Major Depressive episode are present nearly every day

Bipolar II Disorder - a disorder that is characterized by the occurrence of at least one Major Depressive Episode that has been accompanied by at least one Hypomanic Episode – a Hypomanic Episode is defined as a distinct period during which there is an abnormal and persistently elevated, expansive or irritable mood that lasts for at least four days – a Major Depressive Episode is defined as a serious mood episode in which the individual must present with either a depressed mood most of the day,

nearly every day and/or a markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all, or almost all, activities most of the day, nearly every day – [in addition there must be at least a total of 5 symptoms including a depressed mood; a loss of pleasure; a significant weight loss or weight gain while not dieting or a decrease or increase in appetite; insomnia or hypersomnia; psychomotor agitation or retardation; fatigue or loss of energy; feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt; a diminished ability to think or concentrate or indecisiveness; and recurrent thoughts of death, recurrent suicidal ideation without a specific plan, or a suicidal attempt, or a specific plan for committing suicide – all of the sign and/or symptoms with the exception of thoughts of death or suicide must be found to occur at least nearly every day

Borderline Intellectual Functioning (V62.89) - this is not technically a mental disorder but a condition that might be a focus of clinical attention when an individual presents with a below normal level of intellectual functioning that is defined as an Intelligence Quotient (I.Q.) in the 71 to 84 range

Borderline Personality Disorder (301.83) - the essential feature of a Borderline Personality Disorder is a pervasive pattern of instability in interpersonal relationships, affects or feelings, and self-image that is accompanied by marked impulsivity that is found in a variety of situations – see also Personality Disorder

Breathing-Related Sleep Disorder (780.59) - this disorder is characterized by a disruption of sleep due to abnormal breathing that leads to excessive sleepiness and/or insomnia

Bulimia Nervosa (307.51) - the essential feature of this disorder is binge eating that is compensated by a purging method designed to prevent weight gain

CCC

catatonic motor behavior - a sign and/or a symptom occurring in Schizophrenia that is observed as a marked decrease in reactivity to the environment, a complete lack of responsiveness, the assumption of inappropriate and/or bizarre positions and/or purposeless motor activity

cataplexy - a mental state in which a person's muscles are partly rigid

cataplexy - brief episodes or attacks consisting of the loss of muscle tone leading to collapse and or immobility and a state resembling REM sleep without a loss of consciousness that may be due to an intense emotion

Circadian Rhythm Sleep Disorder (307.45) - the main component of a Circadian Rhythm Sleep Disorder is a persistent and/or recurrent disruption of sleep that occurs as a result of a discrepancy between an individual's endogenous circadian sleep-wake pattern and the exogenous demands on the individual relating to the time and duration of their sleep – in simpler terms, there is a mismatch between the individual's normal sleep pattern and the demands of their environment that leads to a persistent and/or recurrent disruption of sleep

circadian sleep-wake pattern - the systematic repetitive and endogenous or internally-generated pattern of sleep and wakefulness that occurs during a 24 hour period - the regular biologically based rhythmic repetitive periods of sleep and wakefulness that occur in a given individual in a 24 hour period – this is also called a diurnal rhythm or a “biological clock”

clinical depression - an abnormal or excessive amount of depression – some of the symptoms and signs of a pathological depression are thoughts and feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, helplessness, incompetence, self-reproach, guilt, pessimism, failure, a loss of interest in pleasure, demoralization and thoughts of death and/or suicide – some behaviors associated with a clinical depression are fatigue, weight changes when not

dieting or attempting to gain weight, insomnia, frustration, anger, a decreased libido, reduced cognitive functioning, psychomotor retardation or agitation, attention deficits, sadness, tearfulness, irritability, indecisiveness and evidence of social withdrawal - see also depression

clinical scales - groups of questions on objective psychological tests such as the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI) that yield scores that are capable of providing information about particular personality traits and/or psychopathology

cognition - the mental activities involved in the course of acquiring and processing information in such areas as memory, concept formation, pattern recognition, language, and problem-solving

concentration - the ability to attend on a more or less continuous basis for an extended period of time – see also attention

Conversion Disorder (300.11) - the essential feature of this disorder is the presence of signs and/or symptoms and/or deficits that affect voluntary motor and/or sensory function and appear to be indicative of a neurological or other general medical condition but that cannot be explained by appropriate medical evaluation to be due to non-psychological medical causes – this disorder was previously known as “Hysteria” and was thought to be the result of the conversion of anxiety into physical signs and/or symptoms

Coolidge Effect - an increase in sexual responsiveness in males as a result of the availability of potential new partners – named after President Coolidge who reportedly visited a chicken ranch and was told that roosters had to be paired with different hens every few days in order to maintain a high frequency of mating

complaint - what a patient tells you is wrong with him/her that may or may not be indicative of a disorder – see also symptom, a synonym

compulsions - repetitive patterns of behavior in the form of rituals, such as cleaning, ordering, checking, counting, or repeating words silently, aimed at reducing anxiety as compared to providing pleasure and which the person feels compelled to perform

constant symptoms - symptoms that occur 90 to 100% of the time

constricted affect - a contracted or limited range of observable behavior or signs indicative of an individual's subjective feelings or mood

cross-gender identification - the desire to be a member of the opposite gender or an insistence that one is actually a member of the opposite gender

Cyclothymic Disorder (301.13) - the essential feature of this disorder is a mood disturbance that is chronic, fluctuating and involves numerous periods of hypomanic signs and/or symptoms and numerous periods of depressive signs and/or symptoms - essentially, the individual has periods of relatively manic and depressive moods that are insufficient in number, severity, pervasiveness or duration to meet the criteria for a Manic Episode characteristic of a Bipolar I Disorder and depressive signs and/or symptoms that are insufficient in number, severity, pervasiveness or duration to meet the criteria for a Major Depressive Episode – see Hypomanic Episode and Major Depressive Episode

DDD

decompensation - deterioration in a patient's mental health that was previously well managed that leads to a diminished ability to think and carry on daily activities.

Deferred diagnosis - a DSM-IV-TR diagnostic statement that is made when the doctor has "Information inadequate to make any diagnostic judgment" about an Axis I diagnosis or condition or an Axis II diagnosis

delirium - a usually temporary disturbance in consciousness such as a reduction in the clarity of one's awareness of the world around them that is accompanied by a reduced ability to attend to events

delusions - beliefs maintained in the presence of overwhelming evidence contrary to those beliefs

delusions of reference - delusional beliefs that certain people, events, or things in one's environment have a special significance

dementia - multiple cognitive deficits that include memory impairment and at least one of the following cognitive disturbances: aphasia or a language impairment, apraxia or a deficit in performing purposeful body movements, agnosia or an impairment in the ability to recognize familiar objects, or a disturbance in executive functioning

Dementia Due to Head Trauma (294.1) - the presence of dementia that is judged to be due to the direct physiological consequence of a head trauma

Dementia Due to Other General Medical Conditions (294.1) - the presence of dementia that is judged to be due to the direct physiological consequences of a general medical condition such as HIV Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Disease and Pick's Disease

Dependent Personality Disorder (301.6) - the essential feature of a Dependent Personality Disorder is a pervasive and excessive dependency or a need to be taken care of by others that results in submissive and clinging behavior in an attempt to ward off rejection that is accompanied by a fear of separation from the individuals that they have become dependent upon – see also Personality Disorder

depersonalization - a feeling of being detached from oneself

Depersonalization Disorder (300.6) – a disorder that is characterized by persistent and/or recurrent episodes during which an individual feels detached and/or estranged from oneself and may have the sensation of living in a dream, and/or have the sensation of being an outside observer viewing oneself

depression - a normal human emotion associated with a variety of thoughts and behaviors that, when they are at an extreme, are considered to be pathological and are called a clinical depression – some of the symptoms and signs of a pathological depression are thoughts and feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, helplessness, incompetence, self-reproach, guilt, pessimism, failure, a loss of interest in pleasure, demoralization and thoughts of death and/or suicide – some behaviors associated with a clinical depression are fatigue, weight changes when not dieting or attempting to gain weight, insomnia, frustration, anger, a decreased libido, reduced cognitive functioning, psychomotor retardation or agitation, attention deficits, sadness, tearfulness, irritability, indecisiveness and evidence of social withdrawal - see also clinical depression

Depressive Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (311.00) - a Depressive Disorder that is characterized by the presence of a clinical depression that does not meet the criteria for any other Depressive Disorder

derealization - a feeling of unreality

diagnostic specifiers - in DSM-IV-TR terminology, except for some disorders specifically identified in that diagnostic manual, there are specific ways for identifying the severity and the course of a currently diagnosed disorder; examples are provided below:

diagnostic specifiers for discussing remission - the two specifiers for discussion of the possible remission of a disorder are “In Partial Remission” and “In Full Remission” – “In Partial Remission” is used when the full criteria were previously met but currently only some of the signs and/or symptoms remain - “In Full Remission” is used when the full criteria for the disorder were previously met but there are no longer any signs or symptoms of the disorder

diagnostic specifiers for severity of a disorder - the DSM-IV-TR outlines three specifiers that can be used for denoting the severity of all but a few disorders that are otherwise identified - these are “Mild,” “Moderate” and “Severe” - “Mild” is used when there are few, if any, signs and/or symptoms required to make the diagnosis and there is no more than a minor impairment in functioning - “Moderate” is used when there is a functional impairment in between “Mild” and “Severe” - “Severe” is used where there are many signs and/or symptoms in excess of those needed to make the diagnosis or there is marked impairment in functioning

disability - in DSM-IV-TR terminology this is defined as an impairment in one or more important areas of functioning - in legal circumstances the definition may be different than DSM-IV-TR terminology and may vary by jurisdiction

disorder - as it applies to mental or psychological disorders, in DSM-IV-TR terminology a disorder is defined as “a clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome or pattern that occurs in an individual and that is associated with present distress (e.g., a painful symptom) or disability (i.e., impairment in one or more important areas of functioning) or with a significantly increased risk of suffering death, pain, disability, or an

important loss of freedom” - additionally the DSM-IV-TR makes it clear that in order to diagnose a disorder correctly the “syndrome or pattern must not be merely an expectable and culturally sanctioned response to a particular event” - see also mental disorder and psychological disorder

disorganized speech - as seen in Schizophrenia this is shown by incoherence and/or “derailment,” a tendency for ideas or a train of thought to “slide” from one “track” onto an unrelated or an indirectly related “track”
disorganized thinking - as seen in Schizophrenia this is observed in disorganized speech that does not make any sense in the context of the conversation and at times may be totally incomprehensible - see also disorganized speech

dissociative amnesia - a loss of memory, usually for important recent events, which is thought to occur as a result of a traumatic environmental event

Dissociative Amnesia (300.12) - a disorder characterized by an inability to recall important relatively recent events and personal information in which the material “forgotten” is typically too extensive to be explained by normal forgetting and appears to be due to an experience of a stressful or traumatic nature

Dissociative Disorders - a group of DSM-IV-TR disorders that are characterized by the dissociation or a disruption in the integration of consciousness, memory, identity and/or sensation or perception that are thought to be caused by trauma

Dissociative Identity Disorder (300.14) - this disorder is diagnosed correctly when the individual presents with evidence of having two or more distinct personalities or identities and in earlier diagnostic manuals was called a Multiple Personality Disorder

dissociative signs and/or symptoms - as seen in dissociative amnesia, these are behaviors, feelings and/or thoughts in which there is a total or partial disconnection between one's memories, motivations, feelings, thoughts and behaviors

distress - a painful sign and/or symptom

dyslexia - a broad term referring to a learning disability that impairs a person's fluency and comprehension with regard to being able to read and/or spell - typically a person's intellectual capacity develops independent of this learning disability, with I.Q. unrelated to the presence of dyslexia

Dyspareunia (302.76) - a disorder in which there is genital pain during sexual intercourse that may in some cases originate from or be exacerbated by psychological factors

dyssomnias - a class of sleeping disorders characterized by difficulty getting to or remaining asleep

Dysthymic Disorder (300.4) - a disorder characterized by a chronically depressed mood that has been present most of the day, more days than not, for at least two years

EEE

Eating Disorders - disorders characterized by a severe disturbance in eating behavior

echolalia - parrot-like repetition of overheard words and/or fragments of speech often delivered or spoken with a mocking intonation

echopraxia - seemingly automatic or uncontrollable imitation of the movements of other people

ego-dystonic - something an individual experiences as self-repugnant, alien, discordant and/or inconsistent with one's personality

elevated mood - a heightened mood that is characterized by feelings of euphoria, elation and a sense of well-being

empathy - the ability to understand another person's state of mind, including their thoughts and feelings, and the ability to experience those thoughts and feelings from the other person's point of view

endogenous - originating from within the person

euthymic mood - a normal mood

exacerbation - an increase in the signs and/or symptoms of a physical or psychiatric disorder - in workers' compensation parlance an exacerbation is defined as not being due to an individual's employment

exaggerated startle response - an overreaction to a sudden and unexpected occurrence such as a loud noise

examination - this refers to all of the procedures employed in a psychological evaluation from the time the patient walks in the door until they leave the office for the last time - see also interview and evaluation

Exhibitionism (302.4) - a disorder in which an individual exposes their genitals to a stranger

evaluation - a term synonymous with “examination” - see also interview and examination

exogenous - originating from outside of the person

expansive mood - a mood that is characterized by unrestrained emotional expression and often accompanied by an overvaluation of one’s importance or significance to others

FFF

Factitious Disorders - three different DSM-IV-TR disorders characterized by the intentional production of physical and/or psychological signs and/or symptoms in which the individual assumes the role of a sick person and their behavior is not determined by external incentives, such as winning a lawsuit - see also Malingering

Female Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition (625.8) - a disorder in which a female is shown to have a deficit or absence of sexual fantasies as well as a lack of a desire for sexual activity that is judged to be entirely due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition - see also Male Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition (608.89)

Female Orgasmic Disorder (302.73) - a disorder characterized by a persistent or recurring delay in or absence of an orgasm following a normal sexual excitement phase

Female Sexual Arousal Disorder (302.72) - a disorder characterized by a persistent or recurring inability to attain or maintain an adequate lubrication-swelling response of sexual excitement until completion of the sexual activity

Fetishism (302.81) - a disorder characterized by the use of nonliving objects to achieve sexual gratification

fibromyalgia - a disorder characterized by chronic widespread pain

first-rank symptoms - symptoms that are particularly characteristic of schizophrenia - these are: audible thoughts, voices heard arguing, voices heard commenting on one's actions, experience of influences playing on the body (somatic hallucination), thought withdrawal or the delusion that thoughts have been taken out of one's mind, thought insertion or the

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delusion that thoughts are being inserted into one's mind by someone else, thought diffusion or the delusion that one's thoughts are being broadcast to the environment (also called thought broadcasting), a delusional perception is said to occur when a normal perception is suddenly interpreted in a delusional manner - see also, Schneiderian First-Rank Symptoms

flashback - the experience of reliving an experience from one's past

flattened affect - reduced or missing emotional expressiveness as indicated by unresponsive facial expressions, avoidance of eye contact and diminished body language - a failure to express feelings either verbally or non-verbally

flight of ideas - a continuous flow of accelerated speech with abrupt transitions from topic to topic, usually without transitions, which is based on arbitrary conceptual or verbal links not easily discernible by the listener

Frotteurism (302.89) - a disorder characterized by getting sexual satisfaction by rubbing against and/or touching a non-consenting individual

GGG

GAF - a DSM-IV-TR scale of measurement for rating a patient's level of functioning according to their signs and/or symptoms and/or their level of social, occupational or educational functioning - in the California workers' compensation system this scale is used to assess permanent psychiatric disability - see also Global Assessment of Functioning

Gender Identity Disorders - disorders characterized by strong and persistent cross-gender identification that is defined as the desire to be a member of the opposite gender or an insistence that one is a member of the opposite gender accompanied by a persistent discomfort about one's gender or a sense of inappropriateness of the behavior of one's gender

general medical condition - a physical disorder or condition - conditions and disorders not listed in the "Mental and Behavioral Disorders" chapter of the guidebook of mental and physical disorders called the *International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision, Clinical Modification* (ICD) that is published by the World Health Organization

Generalized Anxiety Disorder (300.02) - a disorder that is diagnosed correctly when an individual presents with excessive anxiety and worry in the form of apprehensive expectations that have been occurring on most days for at least six months in which the anxiety and worry occurs about a number of events and/or activities and the individual finds it difficult to control his/her anxiety and worries that are far out of proportion to the actual likelihood of the feared events and/or activities.

Global Assessment of Functioning (GAF) score - a DSM-IV-TR scale of measurement for rating a patient's level of functioning according to their signs and/or symptoms and/or their level of social, occupational or educational functioning – in the California workers' compensation system this scale is used to assess permanent psychiatric disability - see also GAF

grandiosity - a sense of inflated self-esteem

grimacing - contorted or “ugly” facial expressions

grossly disorganized behavior - as seen in Schizophrenia it is observed in a variety of ways such as childlike silliness, unpredictable agitation and difficulty performing normal activities of daily life such as maintaining personal hygiene

HHH

hallucinations - a perceptual experience in the visual, auditory, tactile, olfactory or gustatory sense that is not produced by the stimulation of a sense organ

hermaphroditism - a condition that is also called physical intersex condition and is characterized by an individual having both male and female sexual organs, usually with one gender dominating - see also physical intersex condition

Histrionic Personality Disorder (301.50) - the essential feature of a Histrionic Personality Disorder is a pervasive pattern of excessive emotionality as well as attention-seeking behavior in which these individuals are often seen as “lively and dramatic” and are uncomfortable or feel unappreciated when they are not the center of attention

Huntington’s disease - a rare, heritable disease characterized by chronic and progressive mental deterioration ending in dementia

Hypersomnia Related to Another Mental Disorder (307.44) - a disorder characterized by evidence of excessive sleepiness that is related to or due to another mental disorder such as an Anxiety Disorder or a Depressive Disorder

hypervigilance - a state of exaggerated oversensitivity to a class of events the purpose of which is to detect threats

hypnagogic hallucinations - intense or vivid dreamlike images that occur just before falling asleep

Hypomanic Episode - a distinct period during which there is an abnormal and persistently elevated, expansive or irritable mood that lasts for at least four days

hypnopompic hallucinations - intense or vivid dreamlike images that occur shortly after awakening

Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder (302.71) - the essential feature of this disorder is a deficit or absence of sexual fantasies as well as a lack of a desire for sexual activity

Hypochondriasis (300.7) - a disorder characterized by a patient's preoccupation with a fear of a serious medical illness that is based entirely on the individual's misinterpretation of one or more bodily signs and/or symptoms where typically no amount of medical evaluation and/or reassurance from the appropriate professional specialists can allay the person's concern about having the illness

hypoxyphilia - a type of Sexual Masochism that requires oxygen deprivation by, for example, the use of a noose or a plastic bag to produce a decrease in brain oxygenation that results in an enhanced sexual arousal - when this procedure leads to inadvertent death it is called auto-erotic asphyxia

III

ideas of reference - a pattern of believing that external events and activities have a special significance for the person

Identity Problem (313.82) - this is not a mental disorder but a condition that may require clinical attention and is specified correctly when the individual presents with uncertainty about issues relating to their identity, such as their career choice, friendship patterns, sexual orientation and/or moral values

In Full Remission - in DSM-IV-TR terminology this is a course specifier that is used when the full criteria for the disorder being diagnosed were previously met but there are no longer any signs or symptoms of the disorder - see also diagnostic specifiers for discussing remission

In Partial Remission - in DSM-IV-TR terminology this is a course specifier that is used when the full criteria were previously met but at the time of the doctor's current diagnosis only some of the signs and/or symptoms remain - see also diagnostic specifiers for discussing remission

insomnia - difficulty falling asleep (initial insomnia), staying asleep (middle insomnia) or waking up earlier than one wants to (terminal insomnia)

Insomnia Related to Another Mental Disorder (307.42) - this disorder is characterized by evidence of insomnia that is related to or due to another mental disorder such as an Anxiety Disorder or a Depressive Disorder

intelligence - a person's score on an intelligence test, usually given in the form of an I.Q. (Intelligence Quotient) - the mean I.Q. score for the population is 100 and the standard deviation is about 15 so that only 2% of the population has an I.Q. greater than 130 and only 2% of the population has an I.Q. less than 70

internally inconsistent - when data within any source or group of sources of information reveal inconsistencies, those data are said to be internally inconsistent

interview - a face-to-face meeting between an interviewer and an interviewee during which time the interviewer obtains and provides information

LLL

locus of control - a personality trait or dimension on which people vary in the extent to which they believe that the control of their life is under forces within themselves as compared to being under the control of forces outside themselves

MMM

Male Erectile Disorder (302.72) - the essential feature of a Male Erectile Disorder is a persistent or recurrent inability to attain or to maintain an adequate erection until the completion of sexual activity

Male Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition (608.89) - a disorder in which a male is shown to have a deficit or absence of sexual fantasies as well as a lack of a desire for sexual activity that is judged to be entirely due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition - see also Female Hypoactive Sexual Desire Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition (625.8)

Male Orgasmic Disorder (302.74) - the essential feature of this disorder is a persistent or recurring delay in or absence of an orgasm that follows a normal sexual excitement phase

Malingering (V65.2) - Malingering is not a psychological disorder but a condition that is a focus of clinical attention that is specified correctly when an individual has intentionally produced false or grossly exaggerated signs and/or symptoms of a physical and/or psychological nature, and that deliberate misrepresentation is motivated by external incentives such as obtaining financial compensation, avoiding work, or evading military duty

mania - a state of abnormally elevated or irritable mood, arousal, and/or energy often conceived of as the opposite of depression

Major Depressive Disorder (296.2 – 296.3) - a disorder characterized by at least one Major Depressive Episode, which is defined as a serious disturbance in mood in which the individual has either a depressed mood most of the day, nearly every day and/or a markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all, or almost all, activities most of the day, nearly every day - in addition there must be at least a total of five symptoms including a depressed mood; a loss of pleasure; a significant weight loss or weight gain

while not dieting or a decrease or increase in appetite; insomnia or hypersomnia; psychomotor agitation or retardation; fatigue or loss of energy; feelings of worthlessness or excessive or inappropriate guilt; a diminished ability to think or concentrate or indecisiveness; and recurrent thoughts of death, recurrent suicidal ideation without a specific plan, or a suicidal attempt, or a specific plan for committing suicide - all of the signs and/or symptoms, with the exception of thoughts of death or suicide, must be found to occur at least nearly every day

Manic-Depressive Illness - the former name of a group of Mood Disorders now called Bipolar Disorders that are characterized by major changes in mood over time

mental disorder - a psychological disorder - in DSM-IV-TR terminology this is defined as “a clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome or pattern that occurs in an individual and that is associated with present distress (e.g., a painful symptom) or disability (i.e., impairment in one or more important areas of functioning) or with a significantly increased risk of suffering death, pain, disability, or an important loss of freedom.” - additionally the DSM-IV-TR makes it clear that the “syndrome or pattern must not be merely an expectable and culturally sanctioned response to a particular event”

Mental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified Due to a General Medical Condition (293.9) - this disorder is a residual category that is used for situations in which it has been established that there is a mental disorder that has been caused by the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition, but the criteria are not met for a specific Mental Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition

Mental Status Examination - an examination conducted by a mental health professional that produces a set of observations that are collected under reasonably controlled conditions employing a relatively standard set of examining techniques and questions that provide an overall picture of the individual's mental or psychological status in a wide variety of areas

modifiers - in DSM-IV-TR terminology these are terms that can be applied to mental or psychological disorders that indicate their severity or the possibility that the individual has had the disorder in the past and has either recovered completely or partially or still has some signs and/or symptoms of the disorder - modifiers are sometimes called diagnostic specifiers - see also diagnostic specifiers for severity of a disorder

mood - a sustained emotional state as experienced by the person (contrast with "affect")

Mood Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition (293.83) - the essential feature of this disorder is a prominent and persistent disturbance in mood that is judged to be due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition

Mood Disorders - any disorder that has a disturbance of mood as the predominant feature

Mood Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (296.90) - this disorder is characterized by mood symptoms that do not meet the criteria for any specific DSM-IV-TR Mood Disorder and in which it is difficult to choose between a Depressive Disorder Not Otherwise Specified and a Bipolar Disorder Not Otherwise Specified

multiplicative law of probability - if two events are independent, such as the outcome of flips of an unbiased coin, the probability of observing two specific events in sequence is the product of the two separate probabilities

myotonic dystrophy - a chronic and slowly progressing multi-system disorder that is characterized by a wasting away of the muscles

NNN

Narcissistic Personality Disorder (301.81) - the essential feature of a Narcissistic Personality Disorder is a pervasive or all-encompassing pattern of behavior showing grandiosity of thoughts and feelings about oneself, a need for admiration and a lack of empathy that occurs in a wide variety of situations

Narcolepsy (347.00) - Narcolepsy is correctly diagnosed when there are irresistible episodes of refreshing sleep that have been present daily over a period of at least three months

negative signs and/or symptoms - as seen in Schizophrenia these are observed as flattened affect, alogia or impoverishment of thought and/or speech, and/or avolition or an inability to initiate or sustain purposeful activities

Nightmare Disorder (307.47) - the essential feature of this disorder is the repetitious awakening from sleep as a result of frightening dreams

Noncompliance With Treatment (V15.81) - this is not a DSM-IV-TR psychological disorder but a condition that may become a focus of interest when there is evidence that an individual is not compliant with an important aspect of their treatment for a mental and/or general medical condition and this noncompliance has created a severe problem

nonrestorative sleep - sleep that is perceived by the individual as characterized by restlessness, "lightness," and/or of poor quality -such individuals typically do not feel refreshed upon awakening but complain about feeling tired, lacking concentration, irritability and poor work performances despite having had enough sleeping time

normal depression - a person can be depressed but not suffering from a Depressive Disorder if their depression is normal, reasonable, understandable and expectable for what they have experienced, such as the death of a loved one or a traumatic physical injury - as noted in the DSM-IV-TR, "sadness" is part of the human condition and "periods of sadness are inherent aspects of the human experience"

OOO

obsessions – as defined by the DSM-IV-TR these are “persistent ideas, thoughts, impulses and/or images that are experienced as intrusive and inappropriate and cause marked anxiety and/or distress”

Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (300.3) - the essential features of this disorder are recurrent obsessions and/or compulsions that are either substantially time-consuming (e.g., an hour a day), and/or cause marked distress and/or significant impairment in the presence of the individual recognizing that their obsessions and/or compulsions are excessive or unreasonable

Obsessive-Compulsive Personality Disorder (301.4) - this disorder is correctly diagnosed when the individual presents with a pervasive pattern of “preoccupation with orderliness, perfectionism and mental and interpersonal control at the expense of flexibility, openness and efficiency” that is observable in a variety of contexts

Obstructive Sleep Apnea Syndrome - a general medical disorder, not a DSM-IV-TR psychological disorder, in which there is a pattern of signs and/or symptoms of sleep-disordered breathing characterized by repeated episodes of upper airway obstruction during sleep that are due to the collapse of the walls of soft tissue in the airway at the level of the throat

Occupational Problem (V62.2) - this is not a psychological disorder but a condition that may be a focus of clinical attention that is characterized by one or more problems stemming from an individual’s occupation that may be caused by a variety of factors including job dissatisfaction and uncertainty about career choices

PPP

Pain Disorder Associated With a General Medical Condition - this is a general medical disorder, not a DSM-IV-TR psychological disorder in which there is pain that results from a general medical condition

Pain Disorder Associated With Both Psychological Factors and a General Medical Condition (307.89) - this disorder is characterized by both psychological factors and a general medical condition having important roles in the onset, severity, exacerbation and/or maintenance of a patient's pain that is typically diagnosed when specialists in disciplines such as orthopedics, neurology or internal medicine have found evidence that not all of the patient's complaints of pain can be completely understood by the underlying physical pathology or by attempts at an exaggeration and/or simulation of symptoms

Pain Disorder Associated With Psychological Factors (307.80) - this disorder is characterized by the determination that psychological factors have the major role in the onset, severity, exacerbation or maintenance of an individual's pain, typically when specialists in disciplines such as orthopedics, neurology or internal medicine have found evidence that the patient's complaints of pain cannot be completely understood by the underlying physical pathology or by attempts at an exaggeration and/or simulation of symptoms

Pain Disorders - the essential feature of any Pain Disorder is pain that is the predominant focus of the clinical presentation and is of sufficient severity to warrant clinical attention and causes significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of functioning

Panic Attacks - a Panic Attack is not a psychological disorder, but a sign and/or a symptom of many disorders that is defined as a discrete period of intense fear or discomfort in which four or more of 13 signs and/or symptoms occur that develop abruptly and usually reach a rapidly

developed peak within ten minutes and are described by the suffering individual as intense, being accompanied by such thoughts as imminent death, heart attack or stroke, or going “crazy”

Panic Disorder With Agoraphobia (300.21) - this disorder is diagnosed correctly when the individual presents with recurrent and unexpected Panic Attacks as well as at least one month of either persistent concern about having additional attacks, worry about the implications of the attacks or their consequences, or a significant change in behavior related to the attacks – there must also be Agoraphobia, which is anxiety or fear about being in places or situations from which escape might be difficult or embarrassing and/or in which assistance might not be available in the event of the occurrence of a Panic Attack or panic-like signs and/or symptoms

Panic Disorder Without Agoraphobia (300.01) - this disorder is diagnosed correctly when the individual presents with recurrent and unexpected Panic Attacks as well as at least one month of either persistent concern about having additional attacks, worry about the implications of the attacks or their consequences, or a significant change in behavior related to the attacks - there must also be no Agoraphobia, or no anxiety or fear about being in places or situations from which escape might be difficult or embarrassing and/or in which assistance might not be available in the event of the occurrence of a Panic Attack or panic-like signs and/or symptoms

Paranoid Personality Disorder (301.0) - the essential feature of a Paranoid Personality Disorder is an all-encompassing pattern of behaviors that is characterized by suspiciousness and distrust of others accompanied by an interpretation of their motives as being malevolent

Paraphilias - are a variety of mental disorders characterized by recurrent and intense sexual urges, fantasies and/or behaviors that involve “unusual objects, activities or situations”

Parasomnias – are disorders characterized by abnormal behaviors and/or physiological events occurring during sleep

Parent-Child Relational Problem (V61.20) - this is not a mental or psychological disorder but a condition that may be a focus of clinical attention in which an interaction between a parent and a child has created an impairment in individual and/or family functioning or significant signs and/or symptoms in the parent or the child

Parkinson's disease - a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system that typically results in an impairment of the individual's motor control and cognitive functioning

partial disability - a type of physical or psychological disability in which the individual is not completely incapacitated but can engage in their normal and customary activities, although with some loss of function

Partner Relational Problem (V61.10) - this is not a mental or psychological disorder but a condition that may be a focus of clinical attention in which there is a pattern of interaction between spouses or partners, such as problematic communications, that has created a significant impairment in individual and/or family functioning and/or signs and/or symptoms in one or more of the partners

Pedophilia (302.2) - the essential feature of this disorder is having sexual activity with a prepubescent child, that is, one that is generally 13 years of age or younger

permanent disability - a type of physical or psychological disability in the person's ability to perform their normal and customary activities that has stabilized and will not change

Personality Change Due to a General Medical Condition (310.1) - the essential feature of this disorder is a persistent personality disturbance that is judged to be due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition

Personality Disorders - these are a group of 11 disorders that are all characterized by lifelong patterns of behavior that become evident no later than late childhood or early adulthood and present as an enduring pattern of inflexible and pervasive behaviors that occurs across a broad range of personal and social situations and lead to clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational or other important areas of functioning

Personality Disorder Not Otherwise Specified (301.9) - the essential feature of a Personality Disorder Not Otherwise Specified is the individual's presentation with an enduring pattern of inflexible and pervasive behaviors that causes significant functional impairment and/or subjective distress but is not one of the other ten specific Personality Disorders defined in the DSM-IV-TR

Pervasive Developmental Disorders - are severe and extensive impairment in the development of social and communication skills, often involving the presence of stereotyped behaviors, interests or activities

Phase of Life Problem (V62.89) - this is not a psychological disorder but a condition that may become a focus of clinical attention in which the individual presents with a problem that is associated with a particular developmental phase or another life-circumstance problem that is not due to a mental disorder, such as starting a new career, leaving parental control, divorce and retirement

physical intersex condition - a condition that is also called hermaphroditism and is characterized by an individual having both male and female sexual organs, usually with one gender dominating

positive signs and/or symptoms - as seen in Schizophrenia these are observed as delusions, disordered thoughts and speech, and hallucinations

postmenarcheal - after the first menstrual period

Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (309.81) - this disorder is characterized by an individual having been exposed to an extreme life-threatening traumatic stressor that has led to the development of a set of characteristic signs and/or symptoms that have lasted more than one month that include mentally re-experiencing the traumatic event, persistently avoiding stimuli associated with the trauma, a numbing of the patient's general responsiveness and signs of increased arousal

Phobias - are defined as persistent fears of objects or situations that the patient goes to great lengths to avoid although their fear is disproportionate to the actual danger and they typically recognize their fear as irrational - see also Social Phobia and Specific Phobia

Polysubstance Dependence (304.80) - this is a Drug Dependence Disorder in which an individual has repeatedly used at least three groups of substances during the same 12-month period, not including caffeine or nicotine, but no one substance predominated although the individual has met the criteria for Substance Dependence

Prader-Willi Syndrome - a very rare genetic disorder that expresses itself in learning difficulties, a pre-occupation with food, excessive hunger and a large food intake

Premature Ejaculation (302.75) - the essential aspect of this disorder is the persistent or recurrent onset of an orgasm and ejaculation before the man wishes it to occur

pressure of speech - continuous, excessive, loud, rapid and sometimes incoherent speech that is difficult for the listener to interrupt and may continue even when no one is listening

Primary Sleep Disorders - there are two types of Primary Sleep Disorders, Dyssomnias, which are characterized by abnormalities in the amount, quality or timing of sleep, and Parasomnias, which are characterized by abnormal behaviors and/or physiological events that occur during sleep - see also Dyssomnias and Parasomnias

Primary Hypersomnia (307.44) - this disorder is characterized by excessive sleepiness as shown by prolonged sleep episodes and/or by daytime sleeping episodes that have been occurring daily or almost daily for at least a month

Primary Insomnia (307.42) - this disorder is characterized by difficulty in initiating and/or in maintaining sleep and/or experiencing nonrestorative sleep that has been present for one month or longer

prodromal - signs that are precursors of an actual Schizophrenic episode and present as relatively mild or subthreshold forms of delusions, hallucinations and/or disorganized behavior

provisional diagnoses - diagnoses given when there is a strong presumption that the criteria for diagnosing a disorder will eventually be met, but when at the time of examination not enough information was available to make a firm diagnosis

psychological autopsy - a comprehensive psychological evaluation of a person who is deceased that is conducted for the expressed purpose of determining if they had a psychological disorder, disability or injury

psychological disorder - a mental disorder - in DSM-IV-TR terminology this is defined as “a clinically significant behavioral or psychological syndrome or pattern that occurs in an individual and that is associated with present distress (e.g., a painful symptom) or disability (i.e., impairment in one or more important areas of functioning) or with a significantly increased risk of suffering death, pain, disability, or an important loss of freedom” - additionally the DSM-IV-TR makes it clear that in order to diagnose a disorder correctly the “syndrome or pattern must not be merely an expectable and culturally sanctioned response to a particular event”

Psychological Factors Affecting Medical Condition (316.00) - this is not a mental disorder but a condition that may be the focus of clinical attention that is correctly specified when one or more psychological or behavioral factors have affected a general medical condition found in the patient and there are data indicating that the individual’s signs and/or symptoms are not completely understandable in terms of the underlying physical pathology and/or an attempted simulation of symptoms

psychological injury - a psychological injury is said to have occurred when some event has produced a psychological disorder

psychomotor agitation - excessive motor activity that usually is exhibited as purposeless behavior, such as pacing, and is accompanied by feelings of anxiety or tension

psychopath - a synonym for sociopath and a name frequently given to individuals suffering from an Antisocial Personality Disorder

psychosocial stressor - a life event that produces strain or tension that is difficult to endure or manage - since a psychosocial stressor is like beauty, in that it exists only in the eye of the beholder, anything can be a psychosocial stressor - accordingly, the concept is almost entirely meaningless and useless - see also “stressor”

psychosomatic - a term that is typically no longer used in psychology and psychiatry that denotes that physical signs and/or symptoms may have a psychological basis

psychomotor retardation - a general slowing of body movements

psychotic - a generic term not frequently used to describe individuals who are said to exhibit a loss of contact with reality

RRR

reliability - in psychological testing this refers to the ability of a test to generate the same results when given to the same individual under the same circumstances - a test without reliability is not considered to be a useful instrument any more than a ruler that could not measure the same 8 x 10 sheet of paper twice in a row and come up with the same answer would be considered useful - the reliability of a test is expressed in a number from 0 to +1.00 with a higher number reflecting more reliability that the test possesses

REM sleep - rapid-eye-movement sleep - a sleep stage that occurs in progressively lengthening episodes roughly every 90 minutes throughout the night, and typically accounts for about 20% of sleeping time and is strongly associated with vivid dreams and a characteristic pattern of brain waves

residual signs - as applied to Schizophrenia, residual signs are relatively mild or subthreshold forms of delusions, hallucinations, and/or disorganized behavior that follow an active phase of the illness

rule-out diagnosis - a diagnostic statement indicating that the doctor wishes to eliminate or exclude the possibility of a specific named disorder but has not yet done so

SSS

Schizoaffective Disorder (295.70) - this disorder is diagnosed correctly when the individual presents with an uninterrupted period of time during which there has been a Major Depressive Episode, a Manic Episode or a Mixed Episode and those episodes have occurred in the same timeframe as the delusions or hallucinations characteristic of Schizophrenia

Schizoid Personality Disorder (301.20) - the essential feature of a Schizoid Personality Disorder is the presentation of a pervasive pattern of behavior in a variety of interpersonal settings in which the individual shows a detachment from social relationships and a restricted range of emotional expressiveness

Schizophrenia - a group of five chronic, severe, and disabling brain disorders that share in common a severe disturbance in thought processes and emotions - the name of the disorder has led to it being frequently confused with "Multiple Personality Disorder" or Dissociative Identity Disorder because of the presence of the word stem "schizo," which means "split," although the split referred to is the disintegration of mental functions rather than the common misconception of it referring to the "splitting of the personality" into two parts - in order to diagnose any of the five types of schizophrenia correctly the individual must present with at least two of the following sets of symptoms: delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, grossly disorganized and/or catatonic behavior, and negative signs and/or symptoms in the form of flattened affect, impoverished thought and/or speech and/or an inability to initiate or sustain purposeful activities

Schizophrenia, Catatonic Type (295.20) - this disorder is diagnosed correctly when the patient presents with a pattern of dominant signs and/or symptoms consisting of at least two of the following: motoric immobility, excessive motor activity that appears purposeless, resistance to

instructions and/or to being moved from a rigid posture, peculiarities of voluntary movement, and parrot-like repetition of overheard words and/or automatic or uncontrollable imitation of other people's movements

Schizophrenia, Disorganized Type (295.10) - this form of Schizophrenia is diagnosed correctly when the patient presents with disorganized speech, disorganized behavior, flat or inappropriate affect and is not diagnosable as having Schizophrenia, Catatonic Type

Schizophrenia, Paranoid Type (295.30) - individuals with this disorder present with a preoccupation with one or more delusions and/or frequent auditory hallucinations but must not present with prominent disorganized speech, disorganized or catatonic behavior or flat or inappropriate affect

Schizotypal Personality Disorder (301.22) - the essential feature of this disorder is a pervasive pattern of social and interpersonal deficits that is accompanied by an acute discomfort with close relationships as well as a diminished capacity for those relationships plus cognitive and/or perceptual distortions as well as behavioral eccentricities

Schizophrenia, Residual Type (295.60) - in order to diagnose this disorder correctly the individual must present with a history of at least one episode of Schizophrenia but they must present without prominent positive psychotic signs and/or symptoms such as prominent delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, and/or grossly disorganized or catatonic behavior - there also must be some evidence of a continuing disturbance as shown by the presence of either negative signs and/or symptoms in the form of flattened affect, impoverishment of thought and/or speech (alogia), and/or an inability to initiate or sustain purposeful activities (avolition) or two or more of the overall signs and/or symptoms of Schizophrenia in an attenuated form such as delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, disorganized behavior and/or catatonic behavior, or negative signs

Schizophrenia, Undifferentiated Type (295.90) - individuals with this disorder present with sufficient signs and/or symptoms to diagnose Schizophrenia as determined by the presence of delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech or grossly disorganized and/or catatonic behavior but do not meet the criteria for the Paranoid, Disorganized or Catatonic Types of Schizophrenia

Schneiderian First-Rank Symptoms - symptoms that are particularly characteristic of schizophrenia - these are: audible thoughts, voices heard arguing, voices heard commenting on one's actions, experience of influences playing on the body (somatic hallucination), thought withdrawal or the delusion that thoughts have been taken out of one's mind, thought insertion or the delusion that thoughts are being inserted into one's mind by someone else, thought diffusion or the delusion that one's thoughts are being broadcast to the environment (also called thought broadcasting) - a delusional perception is said to occur when a normal perception is suddenly interpreted in a delusional manner - see also, first-rank symptoms

secondary gain - benefit gained by a patient as a result of having a disorder

Sexual and Gender Identity Disorders - a class of disorders consisting of Sexual Dysfunctions, Paraphilias and Gender Identity Disorders

Sexual Aversion Disorder (302.79) - this disorder is present when the patient has an aversion to, as well an active avoidance of, all or almost all genital sexual contact with a sexual partner

Sexual Dysfunction Due to a General Medical Condition - sexual dysfunction or a disturbance in what is deemed to be normal sexual desires and/or in the psychophysiological changes that are characteristic of the sexual response cycle, deemed to be secondary to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition

sexual dysfunctions - sexual dysfunctions are characterized by a disturbance in what is deemed to be normal sexual desires and/or in the psychophysiological changes that are characteristic of the sexual response cycle

Sexual Masochism (302.83) - Sexual Masochism is defined as a sexual act in which one is humiliated, beaten, bound and/or otherwise made to suffer

Sexual Sadism (302.84) - Sexual Sadism is defined as a sexual act in which the individual derives sexual excitement from the psychological and/or physical suffering of another person

Sibling Relational Problem (V61.8) - a Sibling Relational Problem (V61.8) is specified correctly when the focus of clinical attention is a pattern of interaction between siblings that has created a significant impairment in individual and/or family functioning and/or signs and/or symptoms in one or more of the siblings

sign - an observable segment of behavior that may be indicative of a disorder

Sleep Disorders - there are four classes of sleep disorders characterized by a specific problem associated with sleep - four classes are: Primary Sleep Disorders, Sleep Disorders Related to Another Mental Disorder, Sleep Disorders Due to a General Medical Condition and Substance-Induced Sleep Disorders

Sleep Disorder Due to a General Medical Condition (780.xx) - there are four different types of Sleep Disorders Due to a General Medical Condition, each of which involves a disturbance of sleep due to the direct physiological effects of a general medical condition - the specific sleep

disorder diagnosed depends on the nature of the patient's sleep problem - the "xx" numbers are replaced in the above example depending on which disorder is being diagnosed

Sleep Terror Disorder (307.46) - the main component of a Sleep Terror Disorder is the repetitious awakening from sleep with a "panicky scream" or cry

Sleep Disorders Related to Another Mental Disorder - the DSM-IV-TR distinguishes between two types of a Sleep Disorder Related to Another Mental Disorder depending upon whether the major symptom is insomnia or hyposomnia

Sleepwalking Disorder (307.46) - a Sleepwalking Disorder is diagnosed correctly when the individual presents with repeated episodes of complex motor behaviors that begin during sleep and include getting up from their bed and walking about

Social Phobia (300.2) - this is a disorder that consists of a marked, persistent and unrealistic and/or excessive fear of one or more social and/or performance situations in which the person is exposed to unfamiliar people and/or to the possible scrutiny of others

Sociopath - a synonym for psychopath and a name frequently given to individuals suffering from an Antisocial Personality Disorder

Somatization Disorder (300.81) - a Somatization Disorder is diagnosed correctly when the individual presents with multiple physical symptoms or complaints that cannot be fully explained by the presence of a known general medical condition or the direct effects of a substance

Somatoform Disorders - Somatoform Disorders are characterized by the presence of physical signs and/or symptoms that suggest that the individual has a general medical condition accounting for their signs and/or

symptoms but those signs and/or symptoms cannot be fully explained by the general medical condition, the direct effects of a substance or another mental disorder

Specific Phobia (308.29) - in order to diagnose this disorder correctly the individual must show a persistent and marked fear of some clearly discernible, circumscribed situations or objects and the person must recognize that the fear is unreasonable or excessive

specifiers - in DSM-IV-TR terminology these are terms that can be applied to mental or psychological disorders that indicate their severity or the possibility that the individual has had the disorder in the past and has either recovered completely or partially or still has some signs and/or symptoms of the disorder - specifiers are sometimes called diagnostic modifiers

SSRI's - Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors or serotonin-specific reuptake inhibitors - are a class of pharmacological compounds typically used in the treatment of clinical depression, psychopathological anxiety and some forms of Personality Disorders - there is some dispute in the literature as to their efficacy dependent on the severity of the patient's signs and symptoms with evidence suggesting that the benefits of the medical compounds are minimal with mild or moderate pathology but substantial with severe pathology

startle response - a reflexive reaction to a sudden, intense and unexpected occurrence such as a flash of light, a loud noise or a quick movement that includes physical movement away from the stimulus, a contraction of the muscles of the extremities, blinking and physiological changes in blood pressure and breathing - see exaggerated startle response

statistically significant - a finding is statistically significant if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance - more specifically, if the probability of the occurrence is less than 5%

stereotyped movements - as seen in Schizophrenia, Catatonic Type stereotyped movements are repetitive, non-functional, self-injurious bodily movements such as body rocking, head banging and self-biting

stress - a highly ambiguous and generally useless term that can (a) refer to an event in the real world, or (b) a person's internal or subjective response to a real world event in the form of a feeling or thought, or (c) the person's response to a real world event

stressor - a life event that produces strain or tension that is difficult to endure or manage – since a psychosocial stressor is like beauty, in that it exists only in the eye of the beholder, anything can be a psychosocial stressor - accordingly, the concept is almost entirely meaningless and useless - see also psychosocial stressor

stupor - a state of lethargy or unresponsiveness

Substance Abuse Disorders - Substance Abuse disorders are a class of disorders that are diagnosed properly when there is a maladaptive pattern of substance use characterized by recurrent and significant adverse consequences as a result of repeated substance use - there must also be significant impairment and/or distress, as shown by one or more of a series of substance-related events occurring within a 12-month period.

Substance Dependence Disorders - this is a group of disorders that all share the essential features of a group of cognitive, behavioral, and/or physiological signs and/or symptoms that reveal a pattern of increasing substance use to achieve the same subjective effect and that the individual continues to use one or more substances “despite significant substance-related problems”

Substance-Induced Sleep Disorders (291.xx or 292.xx) - a Substance-Induced Sleep Disorder is diagnosed correctly when there is a prominent disturbance in sleep that is due to the direct physiological effects of a

substance such as a drug of abuse, a medication or a toxin - the “xx” numbers are replaced in the above example depending on which disorder is being diagnosed

substance Intoxication - the development of a set of specific and reversible behaviors due to the ingestion or exposure to a substance that by DSM-IV-TR definition causes maladaptive behavioral changes during or shortly after using the substance

Substance-Related Disorders - Substance-Related Disorders are a class of disorders produced either by taking a drug of abuse, whether legal or illegal, or the side effects of medications and/or toxins

substance withdrawal - the development of a set of specific maladaptive behaviors with possible physiological findings and cognitive impairments that is due to either the cessation or reduction in the use of a substance and that causes distress and/or impairment

suicidal gesture - an action that on the surface looks like an attempt to take one’s life but does not end in death as a result of the person not being fully committed to taking their life - a synonym is an “unsuccessful suicide attempt”

symptom - a patient’s complaint that may or may not be indicative of a disorder – see also complaint, a synonym

syndrome - a set of signs and/or symptoms that occur together and appear to be indicative of a disorder

TTT

temporary disability - a type of physical or psychiatric disability that restricts a person's ability to perform their normal and customary functions and is temporary in the sense that the person has not reached a plateau or a permanent level of disability but instead can be reasonably expected to improve

thought disorder - a person is said to have a thought disorder if the language they are using, in either speech or writing, is incomprehensible

total disability - a type of physical or psychological disability in which an individual is completely incapacitated from performing their normal activities

Transvestic Fetishism (302.3) - Transvestic Fetishism is what is more commonly called cross-dressing

T-Score - assuming that some characteristic in the population is normally distributed, like intelligence, a person's T-Score tells you how far above or below the mean the person has scored – for example, for both the MMPI validity and clinical scales the mean T-Score is 50 and the standard deviation is 10 – thus, a person who has a T-Score of 70 is two standard deviations above the mean or has scored greater than 98% of the people

UUU

Undifferentiated Somatoform Disorder (300.81) - this disorder is diagnosed correctly when the individual presents with one or more physical complaints that have been present for at least six months and after appropriate medical evaluation, either those complaints cannot be fully explained by a known general medical condition or the complaints are in excess of what would be expected from the patient's history, physical examination and laboratory findings

VVV

Vaginismus (306.51) - the essential feature of Vaginismus is a recurring or persistent involuntary contraction of the perineal muscles surrounding the outer third of the vagina when an attempt is made at penetration

validity - the ability of a test to measure what it is intended to measure that may be expressed in a number from 0 to +1.00 with a higher number reflecting more validity that the test possesses

validity scales - groups of questions on objective psychological tests that yield scores that are capable of determining if the person taking the test has responded in an honest and frank manner

V Codes - in DSM-IV-TR terminology V Codes refer to a series of conditions that might become a focus of clinical attention that are not due to psychological or mental disorders

Voyeurism (302.82) - the essential feature of Voyeurism is viewing an unsuspecting individual, who is typically a stranger and who is naked, disrobing or engaging in sexual activity

“vs.” diagnosis - a diagnosis expressing uncertainty about which of two possible diagnoses should be made, e.g., “Dysthymic Disorder vs. Depressive Disorder Not Otherwise Specified”

WWW

worry - apprehensive expectations