



Other Specified Schizophrenia Spectrum and Other Psychotic Disorder

In the upcoming text revision of the fifth edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5-TR), example #4 “delusional symptoms in the context of relationship” with an individual with prominent delusions was revised to provide clarifications.

Rationale for Change

The “other specified schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorder” category applies to presentations in which symptoms predominate that are characteristic of a schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorder that cause clinically significant distress or impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of functioning. These symptoms, however, do not meet the full criteria for any of the disorders in the schizophrenia spectrum and other psychotic disorders diagnostic class.

In DSM-5, example #4 “delusional symptoms in partner of individual with delusional disorder” the word “partner” could be mistaken for a requirement of an intimate relationship in which the delusional material from the dominant partner provides content for delusional belief by the individual who may not otherwise entirely meet criteria for delusional disorder.

In DSM-5-TR, the terminology was updated to “delusional symptoms in the context of relationship with an individual with prominent delusions” to eliminate the term “partner,” which could imply a romantic relationship. In addition, the change clarifies that the diagnosis of the “inducer” is not limited to individuals with delusional disorder. It can occur with individuals suffering from any chronic psychotic disorder with prominent delusions, like some cases of schizophrenia and schizoaffective 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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