

## Handout #1: DSM IV Criteria for Attention Deficit/ Hyperactivity Disorder

The guidelines for a diagnosis of AD/HD outlined in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (4th Edition, 1994) are as follows:

### A. Either (1) or (2):

- (1) Six or more of the following symptoms of **inattention** have persisted for at least 6 months to a degree that is maladaptive and inconsistent with developmental level:

#### **Inattention**

- a. often fails to give close attention to details or makes careless mistakes in schoolwork, work, or other activities
- b. often has difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities
- c. often does not seem to listen when spoken to directly
- d. often does not follow through on instructions and fails to finish schoolwork, chores, or duties in the workplace (not due to oppositional behavior or failure to understand instructions)
- e. often has difficulties organizing tasks and activities
- f. often avoids, dislikes, or is reluctant to engage in tasks that require sustained mental effort (such as schoolwork or homework)
- g. often loses things necessary for tasks or activities (e.g., toys, school work, pencils, etc).
- h. is often easily distracted by extraneous stimuli
- i. is often forgetful in daily activities

- (2) Six (or more) of the following symptoms of **hyperactivity-impulsivity** have persisted for at least 6 months to a degree that is maladaptive and inconsistent with developmental level:

#### *Hyperactivity*

- a. often fidgets with hands or feet or squirms in seat
- b. often leaves seat in classroom or in other situations in which remaining seated is expected
- c. often runs about or climbs excessively in situations in which it is inappropriate (in adolescents or adults, may be limited to subjective feelings of restlessness)
- d. often has difficulty playing or engaging in leisure activities quietly
- e. is often "on the go" or often acts as if "driven by a motor"
- f. often talks excessively

**Impulsivity**

- g. often blurts out answers before questions have been completed
- h. often has difficulty awaiting turn
- i. often interrupts or intrudes on others
- B. Some hyperactive-impulsive or inattentive symptoms that caused impairment were present before age 7 years.
- C. Some impairment from the symptoms is present in two or more settings.
- D. There must be clear evidence of clinically significant impairment in social, academic, or occupation functioning.
- E. The symptoms do not occur exclusively during the course of a Pervasive Developmental Disorder, Schizophrenia, or other psychotic disorder and are not better accounted for by another mental disorder

**Types Specified Under DSM IV Criteria**

- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Combined Types:** If both Criteria A1 and A2 are met for the past 6 months
- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Predominantly Inattentive Type:** If Criterion A1 is met but Criterion A2 is not met for 6 months
- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, Predominantly Hyperactivity-Impulsive Type:** If Criterion A2 is met but Criterion A1 is not met for last 6 months
- **Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder Not Otherwise Specified:** This category is for disorders with prominent symptoms of inattention or hyperactivity-impulsivity that do not meet criteria for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder