
DIAGNOSING MENTAL DISORDERS IN PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY: A NEW DIAGNOSTIC MANUAL

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To facilitate a more accurate psychiatric diagnosis of people with intellectual disability (ID), the National Association for the Dually Diagnosed (NADD), an organisation for persons with developmental disabilities and mental health needs, in association with the American Psychiatric Association (APA), has developed the *Diagnostic Manual – Intellectual Disability (DM-ID): A Textbook of Diagnosis of Mental Disorders in Persons with Intellectual Disability*. This book is an adaptation of the *DSM-IV-TR* for use with individuals who have intellectual disability. Chapters in the *DM-ID* cover specific issues (e.g., assessment and diagnostic procedures and presentations of behavioural phenotypes of genetic disorders) as well as the full range of psychiatric disorders. Grounded in evidence-based methods and supported by the expert-consensus model, the *DM-ID* offers a comprehensive approach to each diagnostic category.



For each disorder, descriptive text and details of how to apply diagnostic criteria, as well as tables of adapted diagnostic criteria, are included.

Each diagnostic chapter has a comprehensive review of the research literature, a standard rating of the quality and rigor of the research is applied, and a section on etiology and pathogenesis covering risk factors, biological factors, psychosocial factors, and genetic syndromes.

In addition to adapting the *DSM-IV-TR* diagnostic criteria where appropriate, the *DM-ID* provides advice about and considerations for assessing and diagnosing individuals with ID and coexisting mental health needs. In some cases, it is not so much that the criteria need to be adapted, but that a different method of eliciting the necessary information must be used. Information is provided on recognising common behaviours of individuals with intellectual disabilities and on how to differentiate these behaviours from psychiatric disorders.

The *DM-ID* is designed to help clinicians better understand complex behaviours and guides the clinicians to better comprehend the difference between problem behaviours as compared to the expression of specific psychiatric disorders. Furthermore, the *DM-ID* provides a wealth of information on the presentation of psychiatric disorders manifested in adults as compared to children and adolescents. Additionally, the criteria subsets are differentiated between mild-moderate ID as compared to severe-profound ID.

Field study research on 848 patients using 63 clinicians from 11 different countries showed that the *DM-ID* is a useful adaptation of the *DSM-IV-TR* for persons with ID. Research participants indicated that the *DM-ID* was easy to use, resulted in accurate diagnoses, and can reduce the use of the Not Otherwise Specified (NOS) category. A shorter volume, *Diagnostic Manual – Intellectual Disability (DM-ID): A Clinical Guide for Diagnosis of Mental Disorders in Persons with Intellectual Disability*, has been abridged for clinical usefulness. The *DM-ID Clinical Guide* is analogous to the *Quick Reference for the DSM*.

Additional information about the *DM-ID* is available at the *DM-ID* website (www.dmid.org) including: sample excerpts, table of contents, book reviews, and information on ordering. For further information, contact the author at:

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