

Components of the DSM-IV TR

Axis I: Clinical Disorders

- This is what we typically think of as the diagnosis (e.g., depression, schizophrenia, social phobia, etc.)

Axis II: Mental Retardation and Personality Disorders

- Personality Disorders were placed in Axis II in an effort to assure that clinicians are considering the existence of these disorders. As we will soon see, several of the criteria that define these disorders are similar to those found in Axis I.

Axis III: General Medical Conditions

- The purpose of this axis is to consider and incorporate a persons' medical condition in relationship to their mental health.
- On one hand, a persons' medical condition may exist as a direct result of their mental condition.
- On the other hand, many physical and/or medical conditions can result in symptomatology characterized by an Axis I and II disorders.
- It is important that both possibilities are considered before a mental health professional makes a diagnosis.

Axis IV: Psychosocial and Environment Problems

- It is also important to consider events or situations within a persons' environment that are problematic and may affect the diagnosis, treatment, and even prognosis of mental disorders (Axis I and II) (e.g. death of a loved one, etc.)
- The DSM-IV TR identified nine different types of Psychosocial and Environmental Problems: Family, Friends, School, Work, Housing, Finances, Health Care, Legal, and Other. Also explain that each category should be explored in more detail to determine if there is an existing problem that may impact a person's mental health

Axis V: Global Assessment of Functioning

- The purpose of the final axis is to determine the overall impact of Axis' I – IV on a persons ability to function.
- This information can also prove to be very useful for mental health professionals when developing a treatment plan.