



**Table 7.4-2**  
**DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria for Delusional Disorder**

- A. The presence of one (or more) delusions with a duration of 1 month longer.
- B. Criterion A for schizophrenia has never been met.  
**Note:** Hallucinations, if present, are not prominent and are related to the delusional theme (e.g., the sensation of being infested with insects associated with delusions of infestations).
- C. Apart from the impact of the delusion(s) or its ramifications, functioning is not markedly impaired, and behavior is not obviously bizarre or odd.
- D. If manic or major depressive episodes have occurred, these have been brief relative to the duration of the delusional periods.
- E. The disturbance is not attributable to the physiological effects of a substance or another medical condition and is not better explained by another mental disorder, such as body dysmorphic disorder or obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Specify whether:

- Erotomanic type:** This subtype applies when the central theme of the delusion is that another person is in love with the individual.
- Grandiose type:** This subtype applies when the central theme of the delusion is the conviction of having some great (but unrecognized) talent or insight or having some important discovery.
- Jealous type:** This subtype applies when the central theme of the individual's delusion is that his or her spouse or lover is unfaithful.
- Prosecutory type:** This subtype applies when the central theme of delusion involves the individual's belief that he or she is being conspired against, cheated, spied on, followed, poisoned or drugged, maliciously maligned, harassed, or obstructed in the pursuit of long-term goals.
- Somatic type:** This subtype applies when the central theme of the delusion involved bodily functions or sensations.
- Mixed type:** This subtype applies when no one delusional theme predominates.
- Unspecified type:** This subtype applies when the dominant delusional belief cannot be clearly determined or is not described in the specific types (e.g., referential delusions without a prominent persecutory or grandiose component).

Specify if:

- With bizarre content:** Delusions are deemed bizarre if they are clearly implausible, not understandable, and not derived from ordinary life experiences (e.g., an individual's belief that a stranger has removed his or her internal organs and replaced them with someone else's organs without leaving any wounds or scars).

Specify if:

- The following course specifiers are only to be used after a 1-year duration of the disorder:
- First episode, currently in acute episode:** First manifestation of the disorder meeting the defining diagnostic symptom and time criteria. An *acute episode* is a time period in which the symptom criteria are fulfilled.
  - First episode, currently in partial remission:** *Partial remission* is a time period during which an improvement after a previous episode is maintained and in which the defining criteria of the disorder are only partially fulfilled.
  - First episode, currently in full remission:** *Full remission* is a period of time after a previous episode during which no disorder-specific symptoms are present.
  - Multiple episodes, currently in acute episode**
  - Multiple episodes, currently in partial remission**
  - Multiple episodes, currently in full remission**
  - Continuous:** Symptoms fulfilling the diagnostic symptom criteria of the disorder are remaining for the majority of the illness course, with subthreshold symptoms periods being very brief relative to the overall course.
  - Unspecified**

Specify current severity:

Severity is rated by a qualitative assessment of the primary symptoms of psychosis, including delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech, abnormal psychomotor behavior and negative symptoms. Each of these symptoms may be rated for its current severity (most severe in the last 7 days) on a 5-point scale ranging from 0 (not present) to 4 (present and severe). (See Clinician-Rated Dimensions of Psychosis Symptom Severity in the chapter "Assessment Measures.")

**Note:** Diagnosis of delusional disorder can be made without using this severity specifier.

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