

Factitious Disorder DSM-5 Criteria

Factitious disorder (also known as Munchausen syndrome) is a mental disorder characterized by the intentional falsification of medical or psychological symptoms, either in oneself or another, for the primary purpose of assuming the sick role. Individuals with factitious disorder go to great lengths to appear ill, impaired, or injured, often engaging in deceptive behaviors without obvious external rewards.

Diagnostic criteria

Factitious disorder imposed on self

ICD-10-CM code: F68.10

- A. Falsification of physical or psychological signs or symptoms, or induction of injury or disease, associated with identified deception.
- B. The individual presents himself or herself to others as ill, impaired, or injured.
- C. The deceptive behavior is evident even in the absence of obvious external rewards.
- D. The behavior is not better explained by another mental disorder, such as delusional disorder or another psychotic disorder.

Specify:

- Single episode
- Recurrent episodes (two or more events of falsification of illness and/or induction of injury)

Factitious disorder imposed on another (previously factitious disorder by proxy)

ICD-10-CM code: F68.A

- A. Falsification of physical or psychological signs or symptoms, or induction of injury or disease, in another, associated with identified deception.
- B. The individual presents another individual (victim) to others as ill, impaired, or injured.
- C. The deceptive behavior is evident even in the absence of obvious external rewards.
- D. Another mental disorder, such as delusional disorder or another psychotic disorder do not better explain the behavior.

Note: *The perpetrator, not the victim, receives this diagnosis.*

Specify:

- Single episode
 - Recurrent episodes (two or more events of falsification of illness and/or induction of injury)
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Additional notes

Factitious Disorder (Munchausen): Intentional falsification of symptoms to assume the sick role.
Can be self or another (proxy).

Key Points:

Imposed on Self: ICD-10-CM: F68.10

- Falsify symptoms, injury/disease with deception.
- Present as ill/injured.
- No external rewards.
- Not explained by another mental disorder.

Specify: Single or recurrent episodes.

Imposed on Another (by proxy): ICD-10-CM: F68.A

- Falsify symptoms, injury/disease in another (victim).
- Present victim as ill/injured.No external rewards.
- Not explained by another mental disorder.

Specify: Single or recurrent episodes.

Guys, remember:

Look for patterns of frequent hospital visits, inconsistent medical history, willingness for invasive procedures.

Verify through medical records, collateral info.

High suspicion if symptoms are only witnessed by patient, rapid improvement when unobserved.

Reminder: This handout is an abridged version of the DSM-5-TR's section on Factitious Disorder that focuses only on the diagnostic criteria. For more details regarding the diagnostic features, associated features, sex- and gender-related diagnostic issues, differential diagnosis, recording procedures, prevalence data, and development and course of this disorder, consult the complete DSM-5-TR.
