

Stimulant Use Disorder DSM-5 Criteria

Stimulant use disorder covers problematic patterns of use for various stimulant substances, including amphetamine-type substances, cocaine, and other stimulants. The diagnosis requires a clinically significant pattern of use leading to impairment or distress. The disorder often manifests with intense cravings, tolerance, withdrawal symptoms, and continued use despite adverse physical and psychosocial consequences.

Diagnostic criteria

A. A pattern of amphetamine-type substance, cocaine, or other stimulant use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by **at least two of the following**, occurring **within a 12-month period**:

1. The stimulant is often taken in larger amounts or over a longer period than was intended.
2. There is a persistent desire or unsuccessful efforts to cut down or control stimulant use.
3. A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain the stimulant, use the stimulant, or recover from its effects.
4. Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use the stimulant.
5. Recurrent stimulant use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home.
6. Continued stimulant use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the stimulant.
7. Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of stimulant use.
8. Recurrent stimulant use in situations in which it is physically hazardous.
9. Stimulant use is continued despite knowledge of having a persistent or recurrent physical or psychological problem that is likely to have been caused or exacerbated by the stimulant.
10. Tolerance, as defined by either of the following:
 - A need for markedly increased amounts of the stimulant to achieve intoxication or desired effect.
 - A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of the stimulant.

Note: This criterion is not considered to be met for those taking stimulant medications solely under appropriate medical supervision, such as medications for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or narcolepsy.

11. Withdrawal, as manifested by either of the following:

- The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for the stimulant (refer to Criteria A and B of the criteria set for stimulant withdrawal).
- The stimulant (or a closely related substance) is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Note: This criterion is not considered to be met for those taking stimulant medications solely under appropriate medical supervision, such as medications for attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder or narcolepsy.

Specify if:

In early remission: After full criteria for stimulant use disorder were previously met, none of the criteria for stimulant use disorder have been met for at least 3 months but for less than 12 months (with the exception that Criterion A4, “Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use the stimulant,” may be met).

In sustained remission: After full criteria for stimulant use disorder were previously met, none of the criteria for stimulant use disorder have been met at any time during a period of 12 months or longer (with the exception that Criterion A4, “Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use the stimulant,” may be met).

Specify if:

In a controlled environment: This additional specifier is used if the individual is in an environment where access to stimulants is restricted.

Code based on current severity/remission: If an amphetamine-type substance intoxication, amphetamine-type substance withdrawal, or amphetamine-type substance-induced mental disorder is also present, do not use the codes below for amphetamine-type substance use disorder. Instead, the comorbid amphetamine-type substance use disorder is indicated in the 4th character of the amphetamine-type substance-induced disorder code (see the coding note for amphetamine-type substance intoxication, amphetamine-type substance withdrawal, or a specific amphetamine-type substance-induced mental disorder).

For example, if there is comorbid amphetamine-induced depressive disorder and amphetamine use disorder, only the amphetamine-induced depressive disorder code is given, with the 4th character indicating whether the comorbid amphetamine use disorder is mild, moderate, or severe: F15.14 for mild amphetamine use disorder with amphetamine-induced depressive disorder or F15.24 for a moderate or severe amphetamine use disorder with amphetamine-induced depressive disorder. (The instructions for amphetamine-type substance also apply to other or unspecified stimulant intoxication, other or unspecified stimulant withdrawal, and other or unspecified stimulant-induced mental disorder.)

Similarly, if there is comorbid cocaine-induced depressive disorder and cocaine use disorder, only the cocaine-induced depressive disorder code is given, with the 4th character indicating whether the comorbid cocaine use disorder is mild, moderate, or severe: F14.14 for a mild cocaine use disorder with cocaine-induced depressive disorder or F14.24 for a moderate or severe cocaine use disorder with cocaine-induced depressive disorder.

Specify current severity/remission

Mild: Presence of 2–3 symptoms	Mild, in early remission
F15.10 Amphetamine-type substance F14.10 Cocaine F15.10 Other or unspecified stimulant	F15.11 Amphetamine-type substance F14.11 Cocaine F15.11 Other or unspecified stimulant
Mild, in sustained remission	Moderate: Presence of 4–5 symptoms
F15.11 Amphetamine-type substance F14.11 Cocaine F15.11 Other or unspecified stimulant	F15.20 Amphetamine-type substance F14.20 Cocaine F15.20 Other or unspecified stimulant
Moderate, in early remission	Moderate, in sustained remission
F15.21 Amphetamine-type substance F14.21 Cocaine F15.21 Other or unspecified stimulant	F15.21 Amphetamine-type substance F14.21 Cocaine F15.21 Other or unspecified stimulant
Severe: Presence of 6 or more symptoms	Severe, in early remission
F15.20 Amphetamine-type substance F14.20 Cocaine F15.20 Other or unspecified stimulant	F15.21 Amphetamine-type substance F14.21 Cocaine F15.21 Other or unspecified stimulant
Severe, in sustained remission	
F15.21 Amphetamine-type substance F14.21 Cocaine F15.21 Other or unspecified stimulant	

American Psychiatric Association. (2013). *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). Pearson.