

Examples of Impairments in Functioning

Identifying impairments in functioning is a component of meeting the criteria of medical necessity. This hand-out provides general categories of impairments in functioning and some more descriptive definitions.

Occupational Functioning

1. Unable to work
2. Unable to maintain employment
3. Symptoms or behaviors interfere with job performance

School Functioning

1. Unable to perform in an academic environment
2. Symptoms or behaviors interfere with school performance

Social Functioning

1. Social isolation
2. Socially inappropriate behaviors
3. Poor interpersonal skills
4. Minimal interpersonal interactions
5. Conflicts with peers/roommates/coworkers

Danger to Self/Others

1. Suicidal/Parasuicidal behaviors
2. Suicidal ideation
3. Assaultive, hostile, combative behavior
4. Violent attention seeking

Problems in Activities of Daily Living

1. Hygiene: Inability to maintain personal cleanliness
2. Cooking: Inability to provide nourishment for self
3. Cleaning: Inability to maintain a minimal standard of cleanliness
4. Shopping: Inability to provide for basic needs
5. Use of Transportation: Inability to access resources for mobility
6. Remembering Appointments: Inability to organize and access essential medical and mental health resources
7. Medication Issues: Inability to manage medication and work effectively with physician to determine appropriate treatment options
8. Symptom Management: Inability to utilize coping strategies and wellness planning options.
9. Money Management: Inability to manage finances

(From the Documenting the Recovery Journey training series,
California Institute of Mental Health, 2007)