

Cannabis Use Disorder DSM-5 Criteria

According to the DSM-5, there is *one* main mental health disorder caused by cannabis use: **cannabis use disorder**. Cannabis use disorder represents a problematic pattern of cannabis use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress.

The diagnosis is based on specific behavioral and physiological criteria occurring within a 12-month period, which includes the following:

A. A problematic pattern of cannabis use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress, as manifested by at least two of the following, occurring within a 12-month period:

1. Cannabis 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 cannabis use.
3. A great deal of time is spent in activities necessary to obtain cannabis, use cannabis, or recover from its effects.
4. Craving, or a strong desire or urge to use cannabis.
5. Recurrent cannabis use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home.
6. Continued cannabis use despite having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of cannabis.
7. Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are given up or reduced because of cannabis use.
8. Recurrent cannabis use in situations in which it is physically hazardous.
9. Cannabis 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 cannabis.
10. Tolerance, as defined by either of the following:
 - A need for markedly increased amounts of cannabis to achieve intoxication or desired effect.
 - A markedly diminished effect with continued use of the same amount of cannabis.
11. Withdrawal, as manifested by either of the following:
 - The characteristic withdrawal syndrome for cannabis (refer to Criteria A and B of the criteria set for cannabis withdrawal).
 - Cannabis (or a closely related substance) is taken to relieve or avoid withdrawal symptoms.

Specify if:

- **In early remission:** After full criteria for cannabis use disorder were previously met, none of the criteria for cannabis 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 cannabis,” may be met).
- **In sustained remission:** After full criteria for cannabis use disorder were previously met, none of the criteria for cannabis 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 cannabis,” may be present).

Specify if:

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

Code based on current severity/remission: If a cannabis intoxication, cannabis withdrawal, or another cannabis-induced mental disorder is also present, do not use the codes below for cannabis use disorder. Instead, the comorbid cannabis use disorder is indicated in the 4th character of the cannabis-induced disorder code (see the coding note for cannabis intoxication, cannabis withdrawal, or a specific cannabis-induced mental disorder). For example, if there is comorbid cannabis-induced anxiety disorder and cannabis use disorder, only the cannabis-induced anxiety disorder code is given, with the 4th character indicating whether the comorbid cannabis use disorder is mild, moderate, or severe: F12.180 for mild cannabis use disorder with cannabis-induced anxiety disorder or F12.280 for a moderate or severe cannabis use disorder with cannabis-induced anxiety disorder.

Specify current severity/remission:

- **F12.10 Mild:** Presence of 2–3 symptoms.
- **F12.11 Mild, In early remission**
- **F12.11 Mild, In sustained remission**
- **F12.20 Moderate:** Presence of 4–5 symptoms.
- **F12.21 Moderate, In early remission**
- **F12.21 Moderate, In sustained remission**
- **F12.20 Severe:** Presence of 6 or more symptoms.
- **F12.21 Severe, In early remission**
- **F12.21 Severe, In sustained remission**