

Annex 7**Brief description of drug-induced mental and behavioural disorders****Drug specific intoxication:**

Acute intoxication is a transient condition following the administration of psychoactive drug, resulting in disturbances in level of consciousness, cognition, perception, affect or behaviour, or other psychological functions and responses. It is usually closely related to dose levels. However, in individuals with certain underlying organic conditions (e.g. renal or hepatic insufficiency), small doses of a drug may produce a disproportionately severe intoxicating effect. It is a transient phenomenon and its intensity reduces as time passes. In the absence of further use of the drug, the effects will eventually disappear and recovery is therefore complete, except where tissue damage or another complication has arisen.

Drug specific withdrawal:

This describes a group of symptoms of variable clustering and severity occurring on absolute or relative withdrawal of a drug after repeated, and usually prolonged and/or high dose use of that drug. The onset and course of the withdrawal state are time-limited and are related to the type of drug and the dose being used immediately before abstinence. Physical symptoms vary according to the drug being used. Psychological disturbances, e.g. anxiety, depression, and sleep disorder are also common. Typically, the patient is likely to report that withdrawal symptoms are relieved by further drug use.

Drug-induced delirium:

The classical triad of delirium includes clouding of consciousness (confusion), vivid hallucinations and illusions affecting any sensory modality, and marked tremor. Other features may include delusions, agitation, insomnia, and autonomic overactivity. This can occur during intoxication or withdrawal of specific drugs.

Drug-induced persistent dementia:

Dementia is defined as the development of multiple cognitive deficits manifested by memory impairment (inability to learn new information or to recall previously learned information), probably with disturbance of language, motor ability, ability to recognize objects and executive functioning. The deficits do not occur exclusively during the course of a delirium. It is etiologically related to the persisting effects of the drug used.

Drug-induced persisting amnesic disorder:

A disorder associated with chronic prominent impairment of recent memory. Sometimes remote memory is impaired. Immediate recall is preserved. There is disturbance of time sense and ordering of events. Learning new material is difficult. Other cognitive functions are usually well preserved.

Drug-induced psychotic disorder:

A cluster of psychotic phenomena that occur during or immediately after psychoactive drug use and are characterized by vivid hallucinations (typically auditory), misidentifications, delusions and ideas of reference, excitement or stupor, and an abnormal affect that range from intense fear to ecstasy. The sensorium is usually clear. The disorder typically resolves at least partially within 1 month and fully within 6 months. This can occur during intoxication or withdrawal.

Drug-induced mood disorder:

It is quite common for those using psychoactive drugs to experience depressive symptoms at some point. The depressive symptoms are transient – associated with ongoing or discontinued use of the drug, or sustained. Symptoms include depressed mood, or markedly diminished interest or pleasure in all, almost all, activities. Mood may fluctuate between being elevated, expansive or irritable to depressed.

Drug-induced anxiety disorder:

Anxiety symptoms may be secondary to drug use or withdrawal. Patients with secondary anxiety may have generalized anxiety, panic attacks, obsessions/compulsion or agoraphobia for up to 6 months before experiencing spontaneous remission. However, the use of stimulants, hallucinogens, cannabis and other drugs may result in the onset of a sustained anxiety disorder that does not remit spontaneously.

Drug-induced sexual dysfunction:

Sexual dysfunction which is fully explained by drug use and which results in marked distress or interpersonal difficulty includes: impairment of desire, impaired arousal (erectile dysfunction, impaired lubrication), impaired orgasm and associated sexual pain with intercourse.

Drug-induced sleep disorder:

Sleep disturbances are common in drug abusers. They are insomnia and hypersomnia. They can occur during intoxication or withdrawal of specific drugs.