

Demystifying the Autism Diagnosis: What It Means and How It Happens

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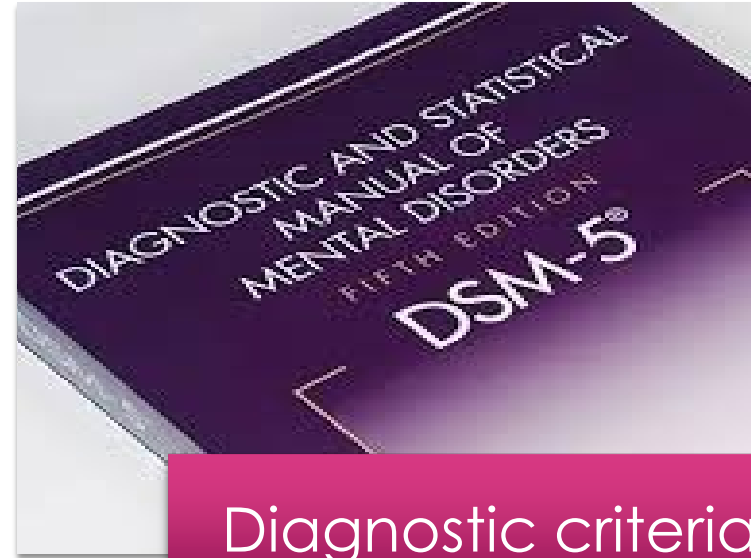
WAISMAN CENTER, UW-MADISON

Note about language

- ▶ Use of **identity-first** language to reinforce the **neurodiverse** perspective of autism



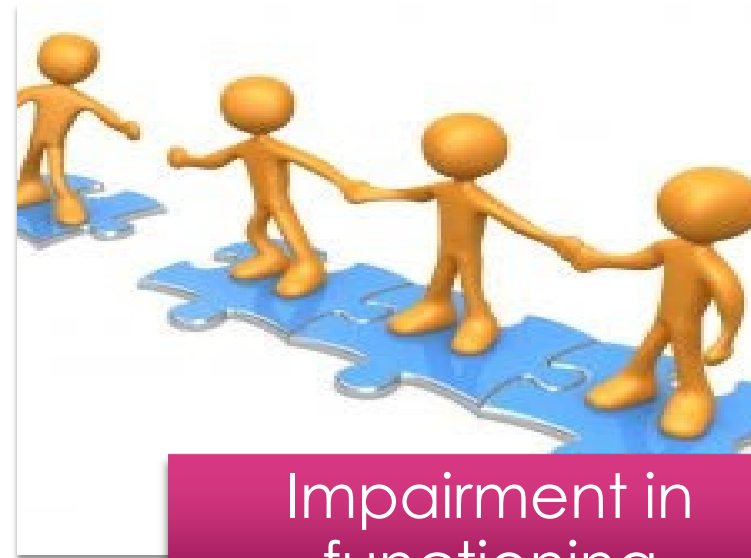
Clinical presentation



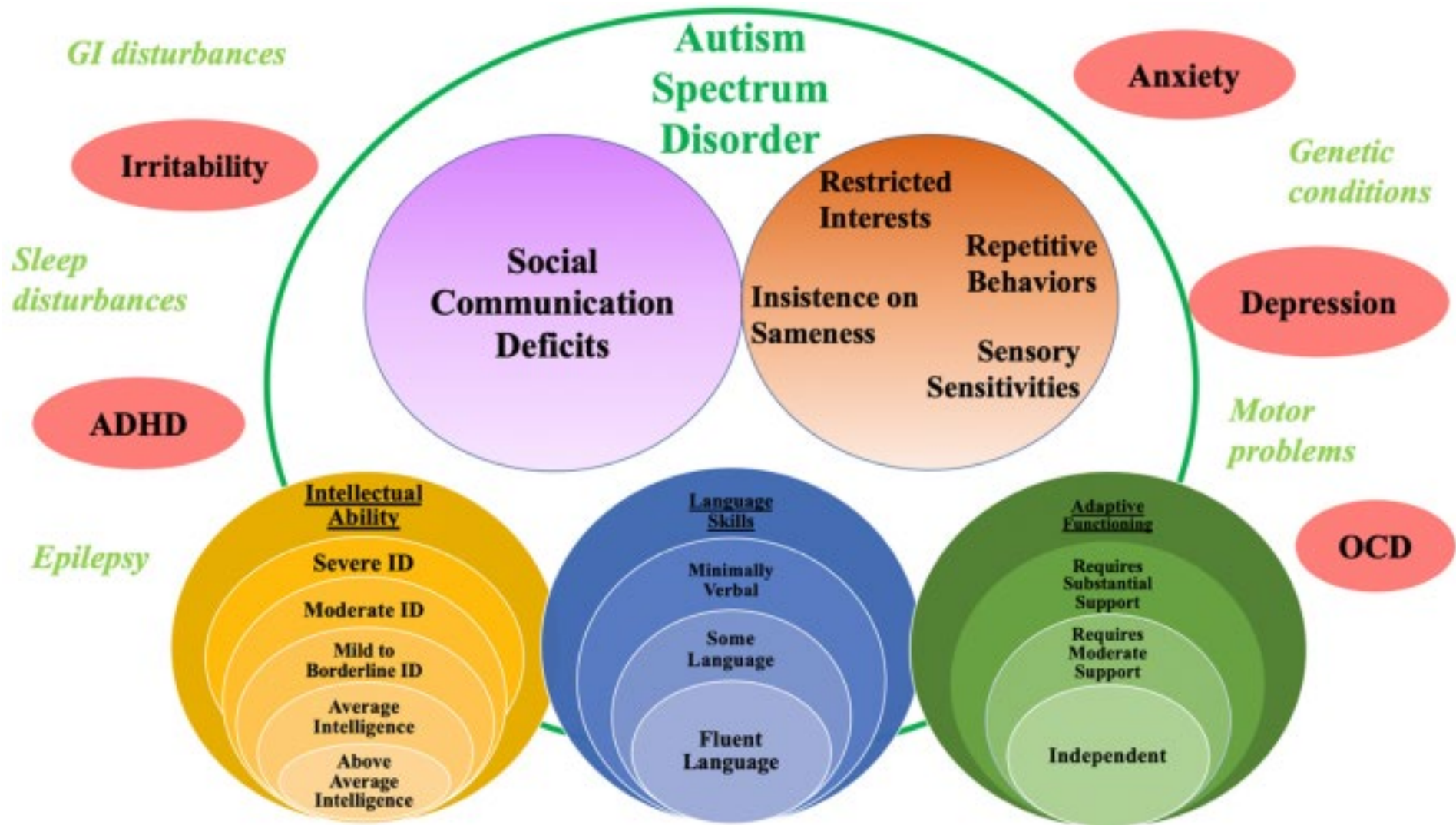
Diagnostic criteria



Early development

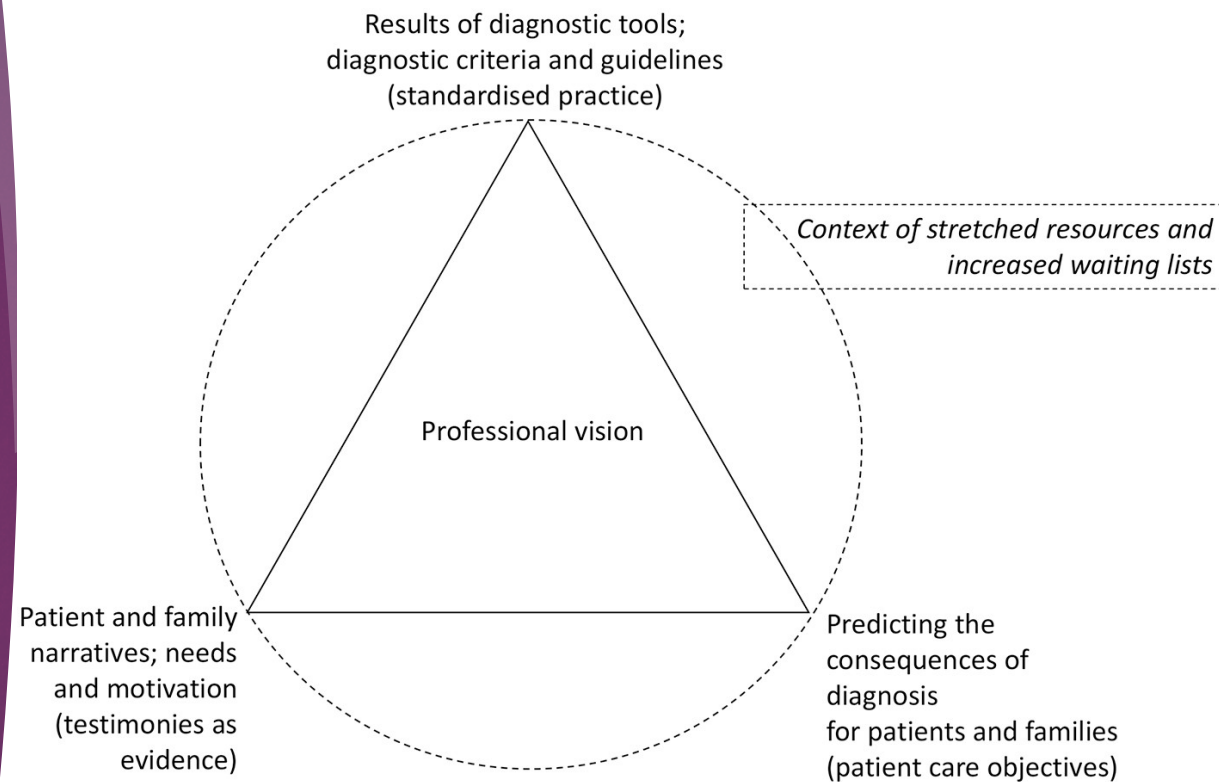


Impairment in functioning





Creating a narrative: Clinician perspective



Hayes, J., Ford, T., McCabe, R., & Russell, G. (2022). Autism diagnosis as a social process. *Autism*, 26(2), 488-498.

Perceptions of diagnostic process

Attitudes/knowledge
of professionals

Community
trainings; better
screeners

Wait times

Clear expectations;
supports

Understanding and
acceptance of
diagnostic methods

Preparation;
enhanced triage

Delivery of diagnosis

Strengths-based;
Neurodiversity-
affirming model

Makino, A., Hartman, L., King, G., Wong, P. Y., & Penner, M. (2021). Parent experiences of autism spectrum disorder diagnosis: A scoping review. *Review Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders*, 1-18.

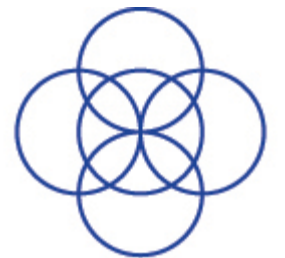
Crane, L., Chester, J. W., Goddard, L., Henry, L. A., & Hill, E. (2016). Experiences of autism diagnosis: A survey of over 1000 parents in the United Kingdom. *Autism*, 20(2), 153-162.

Post-diagnostic support



Children's Resource Centers

Guiding Wisconsin families of children and youth with special health care needs

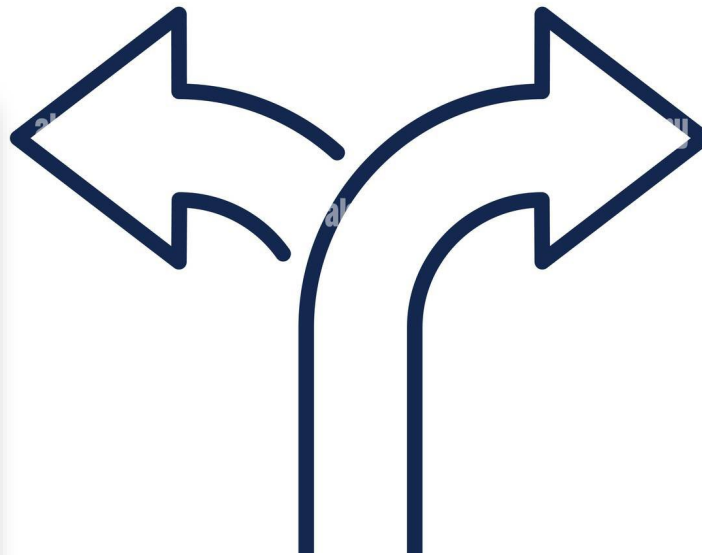


**WAISMAN
CENTER**

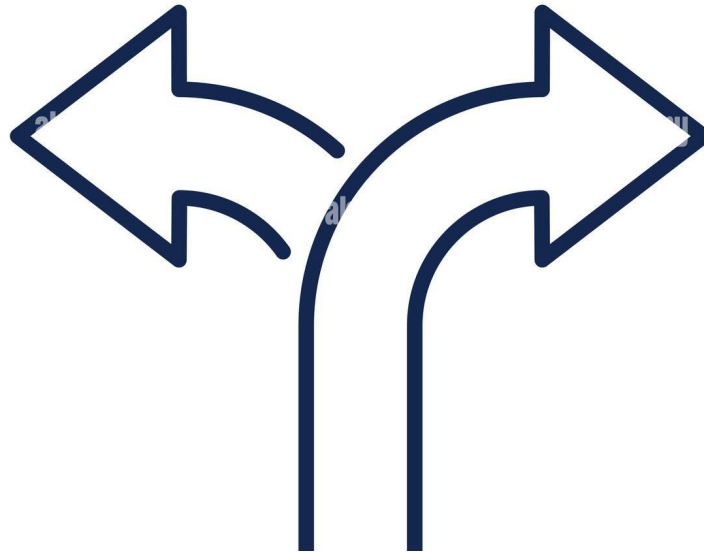


**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES**

Educational classification vs medical diagnosis



Self-identification vs medical diagnosis



Closing

