Side by Side Comparison of DSM-IV-TR Diagnostic Criteria for Substance Abuse and Substance Dependence

Dependence	Abuse
(3 or more in a 12-month period)	(1 or more in a 12-month period) Symptoms must never have met criteria for substance dependence for this class of substance.
Tolerance (marked increase in amount; marked decrease in effect)	Recurrent use resulting in failure to fulfill major role obligation at work, home or school
Characteristic withdrawal symptoms; substance taken to relieve withdrawal	Recurrent use in physically hazardous situations
Substance taken in larger amount and for longer period than intended	Recurrent substance related legal problems
Persistent desire or repeated unsuccessful attempt to quit	Continued use despite persistent or recurrent social oar interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by substance
Much time/activity to obtain, use, recover	
Important social, occupational, or recreational activities given up or reduced	
Use continues despite knowledge of adverse consequences (e.g., failure to fulfill role obligation, use when physically hazardous)	

In using the DSM-IV criteria, one should specify whether substance dependence is with physiologic dependence (i.e., there is evidence of tolerance or withdrawal) or without physiologic dependence (i.e., no evidence of tolerance or withdrawal). In addition, patients may be variously classified as currently manifesting a pattern of abuse or dependence or as in remission. Those in remission can be divided into four subtypes -- full, early partial, sustained, and sustained partial -- on the basis of whether any of the criteria for abuse or dependence have been met and over what time frame.