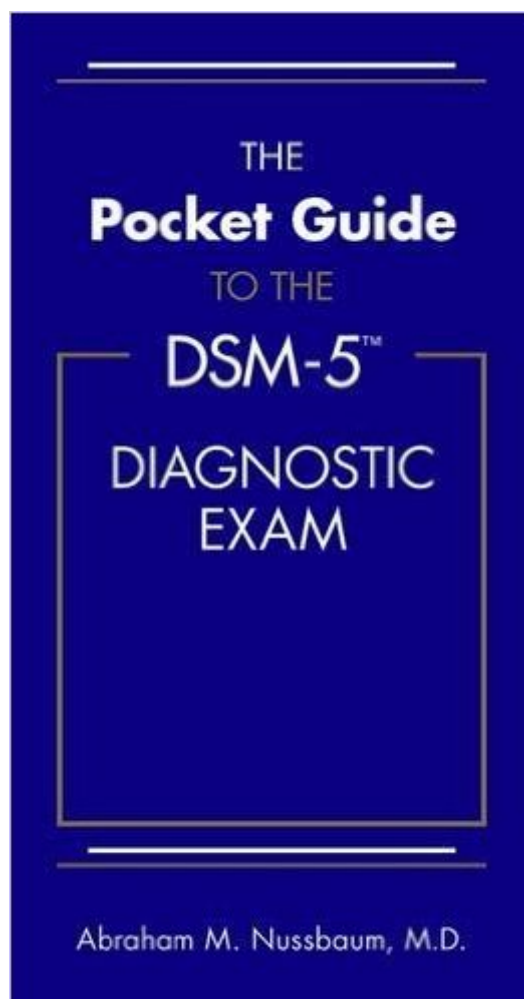


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# The Pocket Guide To The DSM-5(TM) Diagnostic Exam



## Synopsis

The Pocket Guide to the DSM-5 Diagnostic Exam is the only interview book with DSM-5 criteria. The book provides an efficient structure for learning how to conduct an interview, reviews the screening questions, and then explains how DSM-5 impacts the interview. The sixth chapter, the core of the guide, walks the reader through a complete diagnostic exam that includes questions for each DSM-5 disorder class. The book is for beginners learning the format and flow of the diagnostic interview and for seasoned clinicians conducting an interview consistent with DSM-5's revisions. The Pocket Guide to the DSM-5 Diagnostic Exam is a pragmatic and concise resource for diagnosing a person in mental distress while establishing a therapeutic relationship. Want more? Check out my new guide to diagnosing and treating children and adolescents using DSM-5 criteria, the DSM-5 Pocket Guide for Child and Adolescent Mental Health, written with pediatrician and psychiatrist Robert J. Hilt. A memoir, *The Finest Traditions of My Calling: One Physician's Search for the Renewal of Medicine*, is also available from Yale UP.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is NOT the reference guide to the DSM 5 -- it is the guide ONLY to the "how to" do a diagnostic interview. If you are looking for the pocket guide to the DSM5 itself, you want the "desk reference guide to the DSM5" -- be sure not to confuse the two.

I thought this would be a great supplement for the DSM-5 and an important, quick reference for

diagnosis codes, however, the numerical codes are not even included in this small book! This is a disappointment and I will definitely be returning to APPI.

With all due respect to Dr. Nissbaum for his contributions to psychiatry, this manual is a joke. It must have been put together quickly and sloppily, without consultation to people who practice or teach clinical interviewing. It is also formatted in a bizarre way that does not facilitate its use as a pocket (on the go) tool. Finally, the printing, particularly of the italicized font, is very poor, and the font size is tiny and difficult to read (especially on the go). Here is more detail about the 3 main problems:(1) Terrible and useless wording of questions. For example, the manual suggests asking a child with suspected PTSD the question, "Do you repeatedly reenact that experience with your toys or dolls or when playing?" What incompetent clinician would use language like that with a child?!? If Dr. Nissbaum wrote this, shame, shame! My undergraduate students can write better interviewing questions. If you have a copy of this book, read the suggested questions about autism spectrum disorders. Anyone who ever interviewed a real patient would know that the questions are absurd! Presumably, the manual is supposed to help people in their training and learning. This is no way to teach!(2) As noted above, the formatting is bizarre and useless as well. The symptoms and the questions suggested to elicit information about the symptoms are intermingled. Entire disorders are omitted and instead included as very long paragraphs in the exclusionary criteria for major disorders. For example, the criteria for body dysmorphic disorder are all clumped together in a horrible long paragraph, in a single run-on sentence, in a tiny font, as a footnote to OCD. What a mess!(3) The visual acuity of the consumers of this manual must be extraordinary. The text is too small for anyone over the age of 35, and the choice of font type is horrible.

This book was not what I had expected. The previous pocket guide for the DSM-IV-TR was just condensed or abbreviated text of the larger DSM-IV-TR that was easier to carry around. Professionals that have used prior DSMs could be deceived by the title, at least that's how it appears to me. However, it seems to have some useful information and it may improve in value as I become acquainted with the newer DSM-5.

If you are expecting a dry, clinical abstraction, you're expectations will be happily disappointed. Abraham M. Nussbaum's elegant reflections show in the depth and breadth of his writing, and his clarity makes for enjoyable reading. This 240-page pocket guide anticipates key changes in the DSM-5 and prepares clinicians how to re-structure the diagnostic interview to meet these changes.

The Pocket Guide to the DSM-5 Diagnostic Exam per Abraham Nussbaum is informative and easy to understand. What I disliked in the book was the poor quality of the printing. Some words are fading away, the black ink is too light and makes it difficult to read it..

I thought that this was like the Pocket Guide to DSM-IV which was an abridged diagnostic manual. It has good information on interviewing and diagnosis, but I needed the abridged version to transport to various offices.

I thought this was like the pocket version of the DSM (mini version of the full book), but this is a GUIDE BOOK (my fault for not reading it correctly)

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