

## Substance Use Disorder Diagnosis Overview

### Reference Sheet: DSM-V Substance Use Disorder Criteria

The *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders 5* (DSM-5), published in May 2013, replaces the two categories of substance abuse and substance dependence with a single category: *substance use disorder*. The disorder is diagnosed substance specific and with a severity qualifier. The number of criteria met generally measures severity. *Mild* (2–3 criteria); *Moderate* (4–5 criteria); or *Severe* (6 or more criteria). For example: *Alcohol Use Disorder, Mild* or *Marijuana Use Disorder, Severe*. The DSM-5 utilizes the same criteria regardless of the substance.

### The 11 Criteria

1. Taking more or for longer than intended
2. Unsuccessful efforts to stop or cut down use
3. Spending a great deal of time obtaining, using, or recovering from use
4. Craving for substance
5. Failure to fulfill major obligations due to use
6. Continued use despite problems caused or exacerbated by use
7. Important activities given up or reduced because of substance use
8. Recurrent use in hazardous situations
9. Continued use despite physical or psychological problems that are caused or exacerbated by substance use
10. Tolerance to effects of the substance\*
11. Withdrawal symptoms when not using or using less\*

*\*People who are using medication as prescribed; for example opioids, may exhibit only these last two symptoms and not have an opioid use disorder.*