



Understanding Changes in *DSM-5*

NEUROCOGNITIVE DISORDERS

The changes made in *DSM-5* for this category are related to how neurocognitive disorders are described. In *DSM-IV*, these disorders were described in terms of delirium, dementia, amnestic, and other disorders. In *DSM-5*, the overall category is referred to as *neurocognitive disorders*. The category still includes specific conditions such as Alzheimer's disease, Lewy body, traumatic brain injury, Parkinson's disease, and so forth.

A further change, which was common already among health care professionals before *DSM-5*, is to classify the disorder as either major or mild. This is an initial step toward seeing severity on a continuum. Neurocognitive disorders that do not reach the threshold for diagnosis of a major disorder are referred to as a mild neurocognitive disorder. Generally, the distinction between mild and major is based on the results obtained from neuropsychological testing.