

Week 1 Objective

1. Synthesizing Subjective and Objective Data for Differential Diagnosis (CO 1)

To formulate a differential diagnosis using DSM criteria, clinicians synthesize both subjective data (patient's self-reported symptoms, feelings, and experiences) and objective data (observable signs, test results, and clinical findings). This process involves:

- **Gathering Data:** Collecting comprehensive patient history, conducting interviews, and performing physical and mental status examinations.
- **Analyzing Data:** Comparing the collected data against DSM criteria to identify patterns and symptoms that match specific mental health disorders.
- **Formulating Hypotheses:** Developing a list of potential diagnoses based on the most likely, life-threatening, and rare conditions¹².

2. Impact of Social Determinants of Health on Differential Diagnosis (COs 1, 3)

Social determinants of health (SDOH) such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood, and social support significantly influence the differential diagnosis process. These factors can affect:

- **Exposure to Risk Factors:** Different social groups may have varying levels of exposure to stressors, trauma, and other risk factors³.
- **Access to Care:** Socioeconomic barriers can limit access to mental health services, affecting diagnosis and treatment outcomes⁴.
- **Cultural Perceptions:** Cultural beliefs and stigma around mental health can influence how symptoms are reported and perceived³.

3. Creating Comprehensive Differential Diagnoses and Treatment Plans (COs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5)

Under preceptor supervision, students should:

- **Develop Differential Diagnoses:** Based on collected data, create a list of possible diagnoses.