



## Veterans Evaluation Services

Ph: 1.877.637.8387 [www.vesservices.com](http://www.vesservices.com)

### VA's Symptom Criteria for Occupational and Social Impairment

#### Total occupational and social impairment, due to such symptoms as:

- gross impairment in thought processes or communication;
- persistent delusions or hallucinations; grossly inappropriate behavior;
- persistent danger of hurting self or others;
- intermittent inability to perform activities of daily living (including maintenance of minimal personal hygiene);
- disorientation to time or place;
- memory loss for names of close relatives, own occupation, or own name 100 %

#### Occupational and social impairment, with deficiencies in most areas, such as work, school, family relations, judgment, thinking, or mood, due to such symptoms as:

- suicidal ideation;
- obsessional rituals which interfere with routine activities;
- speech intermittently illogical, obscure, or irrelevant;
- near-continuous panic or depression affecting the ability to function independently, appropriately and effectively;
- impaired impulse control (such as unprovoked irritability with periods of violence);
- spatial disorientation;
- neglect of personal appearance and hygiene;
- difficulty in adapting to stressful circumstances (including work or a work-like setting);
- inability to establish and maintain effective relationships 70 %

#### Occupational and social impairment with reduced reliability and productivity due to such symptoms as:

- flattened affect;
- circumstantial, circumlocutory, or stereotyped speech;
- panic attacks more than once a week;
- difficulty in understanding complex commands; impairment of short- and long-term memory (e.g., retention of only highly learned material, forgetting to complete tasks);
- impaired judgment;



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- impaired abstract thinking; disturbances of motivation and mood;
- difficulty in establishing and maintaining effective work and social relationships 50 %

**Occupational and social impairment with occasional decrease in work efficiency and intermittent periods of inability to perform occupational tasks (although generally functioning satisfactorily, with routine behavior, self-care, and conversation normal), due to such symptoms as:**

- depressed mood;
- anxiety;
- suspiciousness;
- panic attacks (weekly or less often);
- chronic sleep impairment;
- mild memory loss (such as forgetting names, directions, recent events) 30 %

**Occupational and social impairment due to mild or transient symptoms which decrease work efficiency and ability to perform occupational tasks only during periods of significant stress, or; symptoms controlled by continuous medication 10 %**

**A mental condition has been formally diagnosed, but symptoms are not severe enough either to interfere with occupational and social functioning or to require continuous medication 0%**