

An alcoholic is a person who exhibits a chronic and compulsive pattern of alcohol consumption that significantly impairs their health, social, and occupational functioning.

Diagnostic Criteria:

The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-5) defines alcohol use disorder (AUD) based on the following criteria:

- Impaired Control:
 - Consuming more alcohol than intended
 - Inability to cut back or stop drinking despite negative consequences
 - Spending a lot of time obtaining, using, or recovering from alcohol use
- Social and Interpersonal Problems:
 - Neglecting responsibilities at home, work, or school due to alcohol use
 - Having relationship problems caused by alcohol
- Health Problems:
 - Experiencing blackouts, hangovers, or tolerance
 - Developing withdrawal symptoms when alcohol use stops

Additional Characteristics:

- May experience cravings and intense urges to drink
- May have difficulty functioning without alcohol
- May have a history of failed attempts to quit drinking
- May experience physical and mental health complications related to alcohol use

Note:

It's important to note that alcoholism is a complex condition that can vary in severity. Some individuals may have a mild form of the disorder, while others may experience severe consequences. If you or someone you know is struggling with alcohol use, it's essential to seek professional help for an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment plan.