

AUTISM SPECTRUM RATING SCALES™

(ASRS®)

DSM-5 Update



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Autism Spectrum Rating Scales[™] (ASRS[®])

Technical Report #2 DSM-5 Update

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This technical report provides information about how the Autism Spectrum Rating ScalesTM (ASRS®) have been updated to align with the revised Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) criteria published in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5). Overall, the impact of the new ASD criteria on the ASRS is minimal. The primary update involves the replacement of the DSM-IV-TR Scale with the new DSM-5 Scale (this scale now includes items related to hyperand hyporeactivity to sensory input, or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment). The terminology used in the reports has also been updated to match the changes in the DSM-5; that is, all references to Autistic Disorder or Asperger's Disorder have been removed, and the plural term "Autism Spectrum Disorders" has been replaced with the single diagnostic category "Autism Spectrum Disorder." The final change includes the removal of the Delay of Communication items from the scoring algorithms. These DSM-5 updates are now available for both hand-scoring and computerized scoring options. Supporting psychometric information is provided in this report.

Background

The Autism Spectrum Rating Scales™ (ASRS®; Goldstein & Naglieri, 2013a) is a rating scale designed to measure behaviors associated with Autism Spectrum Disorders in children and youth aged 2 through 18 years. The ASRS includes factor-derived scales labeled Social/Communication and Unusual Behaviors (for ages 2 to 18 years), and Self-Regulation (for ages 6 to 18 years only). A DSM scale is also included that evaluates the symptom criteria of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fourth Edition—Text Revision (DSM-IV-TR; APA, 2000) for Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and Pervasive Developmental Disorder-Not Otherwise Specified (PDD-NOS). The ASRS also includes Treatment Scales whose content cover clinically relevant symptoms that are included in the DSM, as well as associated features that are not covered in the DSM (i.e., Sensory Sensitivity and Attention/Self-Regulation).

The release of the updated Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5; APA, 2013) introduced changes to the symptom criteria of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD; refer to Table 1 for the full DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for ASD), thus an update to the ASRS was required. Because the content of the ASRS was comprehensive enough to include items related to the new symptom for ASD in the DSM-5 (i.e., hyper- or hyporeactivity to sensory input, or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment), a DSM-5 Scale could be constructed using existing items within the ASRS. This technical report describes the updates made to the ASRS to align it with the new DSM-5 diagnostic criteria.

For comprehensive information about the administration, scoring, and interpretation of the ASRS, please refer to the *ASRS Technical Manual* and *ASRS Technical Report* #1 (Goldstein and Naglieri, 2013a, b).

Table 1. DSM-5 Diagnostic Criteria for Autism Spectrum Disorder

- A. Persistent deficits in social communication and social interaction across multiple contexts, as manifested by the following, currently or by history (examples are illustrative, not exhaustive; see text):
- Deficits in social-emotional reciprocity, ranging, for example, from abnormal social approach and failure of normal back-and-forth conversation; to reduced sharing of interests, emotions, or affect; to failure to initiate or respond to social interactions.
- 2. Deficits in nonverbal communicative behaviors used for social interaction, ranging, for example, from poorly integrated verbal and nonverbal communication; to abnormalities in eye contact and body language or deficits in understanding and use of gestures; to a total lack of facial expressions and nonverbal communication.
- 3. Deficits in developing, maintaining, and understanding relationships, ranging, for example, from difficulties adjusting behavior to suit various social contexts; to difficulties in sharing imaginative play or in making friends; to absence of interest in peers.
- 1. Stereotyped or repetitive motor movements, use of objects, or speech (e.g., simple motor stereotypies, lining up of toys or flipping objects, echolalia, idiosyncratic phrases).
- B. Restricted, repetitive patterns of behavior, interests, or activities, as manifested by at least two of the following, currently or by history (examples are illustrative, not exhaustive; see text):
- 2. Insistence on sameness, inflexibility, adherence to routines, or ritualized patterns of verbal or nonverbal behavior (e.g., extreme distress at small changes, difficulties with transitions, rigid thinking patterns, greeting rituals, need to take same route or eat same food everyday day).
- 3. Highly restricted, fixated interests that are abnormal in intensity or focus (e.g., strong attachment to or preoccupation with unusual objects, excessively circumscribed or perseverative interests).
- 4. Hyper- or hyporeactivity to sensory input or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment (e.g., apparent indifference to pain/temperature, adverse response to specific sounds or textures, excessive smelling or touching of objects, visual fascination with lights or movement).
- C. Symptoms must be present in the early developmental period (but may not become fully manifest until social demands exceed limited capacities, or may be masked by learned strategies in later life).
- D. Symptoms cause clinically significant impairment in social, occupational, or other important areas of current functioning.
- E. These disturbances are not better explained by intellectual disability (intellectual developmental disorder) or global developmental delay. Intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder frequency co-occur; to make comorbid diagnoses of autism spectrum disorder and intellectual disability, social communication should be below that expected for general developmental level.

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Updates to the ASRS Corresponding to DSM Criteria Changes

Table 2 provides an overview of the changes to the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria, as well as how those changes have impacted the ASRS. As can be seen from this table, the impact on the ASRS is minimal given the existing alignment of the ASRS structure and content with the new DSM-5 criteria. Therefore, only minimal updates were required to align with the DSM-5 ASD criteria. The ASRS QuikScore™ forms have been updated with the new DSM-5 Scale. These updates are also available as a new DSM-5 scoring option in the computerized software and online scoring programs.

Scoring and Reporting Adjustments

Hand Scoring

The full-length QuikScore Forms have been updated with the changes described in Table 2. The application of these changes to hand scoring is described below.

Calculating Raw Scores and *T*-scores. The DSM columns in the Scoring Grid and Raw Score to *T*-score and Percentile Rank Conversion Table on all full-length forms have been updated to allow for the computation of the DSM-5 Scale (the calculations and conversions for all other scales remain unchanged).

Table 2. Updates to the ASRS Corresponding to Changes in the DSM-5

Change to DSM-5	Updates to ASRS
Four previously separate Pervasive Developmental Disorders (Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, PDD-NOS, and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder) in the DSM-IV-TR were combined to form a new single category in the DSM-5, named Autism Spectrum Disorder.	New Terminology. The ASRS has always included a single DSM scale that encompassed the diagnostic criteria from Autistic Disorder, Asperger's Disorder, and PDD-NOS; therefore, no change in the test structure was required with this update. However, the diagnostic label has been changed from the plural Autism Spectrum Disorders (DSM-IV-TR) to the singular Autism Spectrum Disorder (DSM-5) within the QuikScore forms and computerized reports.
The two categories of symptoms in the DSM-IV-TR related to impairment in reciprocal social interaction and communication for Autistic Disorder were combined into one category in the DSM-5: impairment in social communication.	No Change. The original psychometric analyses of ASRS data supported the combination of social and communication domains into one category and restrictive, repetitive behaviors into another. This structure already reflects the new DSM-5 ASD criteria; therefore, no change in test structure was required.
The DSM-IV-TR symptom of a delay in or total lack of language development has been removed from the DSM-5.	Removal of Delay of Communication Questions. These items have been removed from the DSM-5 update to the ASRS Parent (2–5 Years) and (6–18 Years) QuikScore Forms and from the Summary and Items by Scale sections of the Interpretive Reports. ¹
The third category of symptoms in the DSM-IV-TR that related to restricted, repetitive, and stereotyped patterns of behavior in the DSM-IV-TR was renamed to restricted interests/repetitive patterns of behaviors in the DSM-5. Within this category, a new symptom was included in the DSM-5: hyper-or hyporeactivity to sensory input, or unusual interest in sensory aspects of the environment.	New DSM-5 Scale. The DSM-IV-TR Scale has been replaced with a new DSM-5 Scale on the QuikScore forms. The DSM-5 Scale is also available as a new scoring option in the computerized reports. To accommodate the new symptom, all of the Sensory Sensitivity scale items have been added to all existing DSM-IV-TR Scale items (no items from the DSM-IV-TR Scale had to be dropped from the DSM-5 Scale as they were still directly relevant to the content of the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for ASD). The ASRS DSM-5 Scale was restandardized with the new item list.

¹ The Delay of Communication items are still available on the Response Booklets for individuals who choose to use the DSM-IV-TR scoring option when using computerized scoring methods.

Confidence Intervals and Critical Values. Given that the DSM-IV-TR Scale and the DSM-5 Scale were so highly correlated and that the Cronbach's alpha coefficients are practically identical for the two scales (see *Standardization and Reliability of the ASRS DSM-5 Scale*), the confidence intervals (see appendix A in the *ASRS Technical Manual*) and critical values for assessing change over time and across raters (see chapter 4 of the *ASRS Technical Manual*) remain unchanged.

Hand Scoring for Ratings of Individuals Who Do Not Speak or Speak Infrequently. As described in the *ASRS Technical Report #1* and appendix F in the *ASRS Technical Manual*, a prorating method is used to score the ASRS when rating individuals who do not speak or speak infrequently. See the appendix in this report for details about using the prorating method with the DSM-5 Scale.

Computerized Scoring

A new DSM-5 scoring option is now available for computerized scoring methods (i.e., the MHS Scoring Software or the MHS Online Assessment Center). For users who choose the DSM-5 scoring option, the changes outlined in Table 2 have been made to the ASRS full-length reports.

A DSM-IV-TR scoring option is still available to accommodate users who may wish to continue to generate reports with the DSM-IV-TR Scale.

² For those who wish to continue to use the DSM-IV-TR Scale, a DSM-IV-TR scoring option has been provided along with the new DSM-5 scoring option for all computerized scoring methods.

³ The Sensory Sensitivity scale will continue to be available as a separate Treatment Scale.

Standardization and Reliability of the ASRS DSM-5 Scale

Norms for the ASRS DSM-5 Scale were constructed in the same fashion as were the original scales of the instrument (see chapter 6 of the ASRS Technical Manual, Standardization) and the same normative samples were used (see chapter 5 of the ASRS Technical Manual, Development, for sample characteristics). Actual construction of the norms was conducted by rater type for each of the three age groups (i.e., 2–5, 6–11, 12–18 Years). The process began by fitting the obtained frequency distribution for each scale to normal probability standard scores via the actual percentile ranks associated with raw scores for each scale. Minor irregularities in raw score to T-score progressions were eliminated by smoothing. Standard scores (i.e., T-scores with a mean of 50 and standard deviation of 10) were computed, based on separate percentile score distributions for teacher and parent raters according to age.

A comparison of the *T*-score means and standard deviations is provided for the DSM-5 Scale and the DSM-IV-TR Scale in Tables 3 and 4. Pearson product-moment correlations are also provided between the DSM-5 and the DSM-IV-TR Scales of the ASRS. These coefficients ranged from .98 to .99 (Median = .99) across norm groups and rater versions (see Tables 3 and 4).

Cronbach's alpha coefficients for the DSM-5 Scale items are presented in Tables 5 and 6. These values were calculated for the normative groups using the same procedure as the DSM-IV-TR Scale. Alpha reliabilities were calculated

separately for the clinical and normative samples. The weighted average of these two samples was determined by the method described by Rodriguez and Maeda (2006; see also Hakstian & Whalen, 1976; Shadish & Haddock, 1994), which uses reliability generalization methods that incorporate the sampling distribution of coefficient alpha, the number of items in the scale, and the sample sizes.

Table 3. T-score Descriptive Statistics for the ASRS
DSM-5 Scale, DSM-IV-TR Scale, and Pearson
Correlations (ASRS 2–5 Years)

Form	Scale	М	SD	r
Parent	DSM-5	50.1	9.9	000
(n = 320)	DSM-IV-TR	49.9	10.1	.988
Teacher	DSM-5	50.0	9.9	.993
(n = 320)	DSM-IV-TR	50.0	10.1	.993

Note. DSM-IV-TR Scale data taken from chapter 6 of the ASRS Technical Manual, Standardization; r = Pearson product-moment correlation between the DSM-IV-TR Scale and the DSM-5 Scale.

Table 4. *T*-score Descriptive Statistics for the ASRS DSM-5 Scale, DSM-IV-TR Scale, and Pearson Correlations (ASRS 6–18 Years)

Fo	rm	Scale	М	SD	r
		DSM-5	50.0	9.9	002
Daront	6-11 arent 12-18	DSM-IV-TR	50.0	9.9	.993
Parent		DSM-5	49.9	9.9	.990
		DSM-IV-TR	50.0	10.1	.990
		DSM-5	49.9	10.0	.990
Teacher —	6-11	DSM-IV-TR	50.0	10.0	.990
	12-18	DSM-5	50.0	10.1	.976
	12-16	DSM-IV-TR	50.1	9.9	.9/0

Note. DSM-IV-TR Scale data taken from chapter 6 of the ASRS Technical Manual, Standardization; r = Pearson product-moment correlation between the DSM-IV-TR Scale and the DSM-5 Scale.

Table 5. Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients: ASRS DSM-5 Scale vs. DSM-IV-TR Scale (Age 2-5 Years)

Form	DSM-IV-TR Scale (35 Items)			(3E Items)		DSM-5 Scale (41 Items)	
	Normative	Clinical	Weighted	Normative	Clinical	Weighted	
Parent	.91	.97	.95	.93	.97	.95	
Teacher	.91	.98	.95	.91	.98	.95	

Note. DSM-IV-TR Scale data taken from chapter 7 of the ASRS Technical Manual, Reliability.

Table 6. Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients: ASRS DSM-5 Scale vs. DSM-IV-TR Scale (Age 6-18 Years)

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Form			DSM-IV-TR Scale (34 Items)			DSM-5 Scale (40 Items)	
		Normative	Clinical	Weighted	Normative	Clinical	Weighted
Davis	6–11	.95	.96	.96	.95	.97	.96
Parent	12–18	.94	.96	.95	.94	.97	.96
Tanahau	6–11	.94	.96	.95	.94	.96	.95
Teacher	12–18	.94	.96	.95	.95	.96	.96

Note. DSM-IV-TR Scale data taken from chapter 7 of the ASRS Technical Manual, Reliability.

Cronbach's alpha coefficients were also calculated for the DSM-5 Scale, excluding the items not used in the scoring method for individuals who do not speak or speak infrequently (see appendix F in the ASRS Technical Manual or Technical Report #1, Scoring the ASRS for Individuals

Who Do Not Speak or Speak Infrequently). These values are presented in Tables 7 and 8. The alpha coefficients never deviated by more than .01 from the original DSM-IV-TR Scale.

Table 7. Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients: ASRS DSM-5 Scale vs. DSM-IV-TR Scale—Scoring for Individuals Who Do Not Speak or Speak Infrequently (Age 2–11 Years)

	DSM-IV-TR Scale		DSM-5 Scale	
Form	Original (35 Items)	Prorated (27 Items)	Original (41 Items)	Prorated (33 Items)
Parent	.95	.94	.95	.94
Teacher	.95	.94	.95	.95

Note. DSM-IV-TR data taken from appendix F of the ASRS Technical Manual and Technical Report #1.

Table 8. Cronbach's Alpha Coefficients: ASRS DSM-5 Scale vs. DSM-IV-TR Scale—Scoring For Individuals Who Do Not Speak or Speak Infrequently (Age 6–18 Years)

DSM-		DSM-IV-	TR Scale	DSM-5 Scale	
Form		Original (34 Items)	Prorated (26 Items)	Original (40 Items)	Prorated (32 Items)
Danant	6–11	.96	.95	.96	.95
Parent	12–18	.95	.94	.96	.95
Teacher	6–11	.96	.94	.95	.94
reacher	12–18	.95	.94	.96	.95

Note. DSM-IV-TR data taken from appendix F of the ASRS Technical Manual and Technical Report #1.

Appendix

To use the prorating method for ratings of individuals who do not speak or speak infrequently, use Table A.1 to convert the DSM-5 raw score into the prorated score. First, find the raw score using either Raw Score column. Follow the row across to the corresponding prorated nonverbal score by locating the appropriate column for the age of the rated

individual (i.e., 2–5 Years or 6–18 Years). Transfer this value to the Scale Score Summary Table on the QuikScore form and continue to follow the scoring instructions provided on the form (see the *ASRS Technical Report* #1 and appendix F in the *ASRS Technical Manual* for complete scoring instructions).

Table A.1. Prorated Score Conversion Table: ASRS DSM-5 Scale

Table A.1. Prorated Score Co	DSM-5 Scale		
Raw Score	2–5 Years	6-18 Years	Raw Score
1	1	1	1
2	2	3	2
3	4	4	3
4	5	5	4
5	6	6	5
6	7	8	6
7	9	9	7
8	10	10	8
9	11	11	9
10	12	13	10
11	14	14	11
12	15	15	12
13	16	16	13
14	17	18	14
15	19	19	15
16	20	20	16
17	21	21	17
18	22	23	18
19	24	24	19
20	25	25	20
21	26	26	21
22	27	28	22
23	29	29	23
24	30	30	24
25	31	31	25
26	32	33	26
27	34	34	27
28	35	35	28
29	36	36	29
30	37	38	30
31	39	39	31
32	40	40	32
33	41	41	33
34	42	43	34
35	43	44	35
36	45	45	36
37	46	46	37
38	47	48	38
39	48	49	39
40	50	50	40
41	51	51	41
42	52	53	42
43	53	54	43
44	55	55	44

Table A.1. (continued) Prorated Score Conversion Table: ASRS DSM-5 Scale

Raw Score		Prorated Score	Raw Score	
Naw Secre	2-5 Years	6-18 Years	Naw Score	
45	56	56	45	
46	57	58	46	
47	58	59	47	
48	60	60	48	
49	61	61	49	
50	62	63	50	
51	63	64	51	
52	65	65	52	
53	66	66	53	
54	67	68	54	
55	68	69	55	
56	70	70	56	
57	71	71	57	
58	72	73	58	
59	73	74	59	
60	75	75	60	
61	76	76	61	
62	77	78	62	
63	78	79	63	
64	80	80	64	
65	81	81	65	
66	82	83	66	
67			67	
	83	84		
68	84	85	68	
69	86	86	69	
70	87	88	70	
71	88	89	71	
72	89	90	72	
73	91	91	73	
74	92	93	74	
75	93	94	75	
76	94	95	76	
77	96	96	77	
78	97	98	78	
79	98	99	79	
80	99	100	80	
81	101	101	81	
82	102	103	82	
83	103	104	83	
84	104	105	84	
85	106	106	85	
86	107	108	86	
87	108	109	87	
88	109	110	88	
89	111	111	89	
90	112	113	90	
91	113	114	91	
92	114	115	92	
93	116	116	93	
93	117		93 94	
94 95		118	94 95	
	118	119		
96	119	120	96	
97	121	121	97	
98	122	123	98	
99	123	124	99	

Table A.1. (continued) Prorated Score Conversion Table: ASRS DSM-5 Scale

Bass Cassa	DSM-5 Scale I		
Raw Score	2-5 Years	6-18 Years	Raw Score
100	124	125	100
101	125	126	101
102	127	128	102
103	128	129	103
104	129	130	104
105	130	131	105
106	132	133	106
107	133	134	107
108	134	135	108
109	135	136	109
110	137	138	110
111	138	139	111
112	139	140	112
113	140	141	113
114	142	143	114
115	143	144	115
116	144	145	116
117	145	146	117
118	147	148	118
119	148	149	119
120	149	150	120
121	150	151	121
122	152	153	122
123	153	154	123
124	154	155	124
125	155	156	125
126	157	158	126
127	158	159	127
128	159	160	128
129	160		129
130	162		130
131	163		131
132	164		132

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