

## **TDA CARD: Classification of Impairments for persons 6 years old or over**

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### **Mental impairments**

- 1.1 Developmental delay
  - 1.2 Profound and severe intellectual impairment
  - 1.3 Moderate intellectual impairment
  - 1.4 Mild intellectual impairment
  - 1.5 Borderline intelligence
  - 1.6 Dementia
  - 1.7 Mental illness
  - 1.8 Other mental and behavioural disorders
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### **Visual impairments**

- 2.1 Total blindness
  - 2.2 Poor eyesight
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### **Hearing impairments**

- 3.1 Prelocution deafness
  - 3.2 Postlocution deafness
  - 3.3 Hard of hearing
  - 3.4 Balance disorders
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### **Language, speech and voice impairments**

- 4.1 Muteness (not through deafness)
  - 4.2 Difficult or incomprehensible speech
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### **Osteoarticular impairments**

- 5.1 Head
  - 5.2 Spinal column
  - 5.3 Upper limbs
  - 5.4 Lower limbs
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### **Nervous system impairments**

- 6.1 Paralysis of an upper limb
  - 6.2 Paralysis of a lower limb
  - 6.3 Paraplegia
  - 6.4 Tetraplegia
  - 6.5 Motor coordination and/or muscle tone disorders
  - 6.6 Other impairments of the nervous system
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### **Visceral impairments**

- 7.1 Respiratory tract
  - 7.2 Cardiovascular system
  - 7.3 Digestive system
  - 7.4 Genitourinary system
  - 7.5 Endocrine-metabolic system
  - 7.6 Haematopoietic system and immune system
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## Other impairments

8.1 Skin

8.2 Multiple impairments

8.3 Impairments not classified elsewhere

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## DESCRIPTION OF IMPAIRMENT CATEGORIES.

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### Mental impairments

#### 1.1 *Developmental delay*

This refers to children up to the age of 14, whose mental development is below normal. Due to their level of maturity, these children may display behavioural and learning problems.

#### 1.2 *Profound and severe intellectual impairment*

This refers to persons with an intelligence quotient between 0 and 34, with certain characteristics according to age, in: the areas of psychomotor and language development, in social and occupational abilities, in personal and social autonomy, in the educational and behavioural process. These persons are unable to care for themselves in feeding, excretion, hygiene, and dress, and constantly require the aid of a third person for assistance and protection.

#### 1.3 *Moderate intellectual impairment*

This refers to persons with an I.Q. between 35 and 49. **These persons:** can learn social and occupational abilities, though they do not pass the second grade of Primary education or GBE. They can contribute to their own maintenance through protected workshops, under strict supervision.

#### 1.4 *Mild intellectual impairment*

This refers to persons with an I.Q. between 50 and 69. Adolescents can acquire practical abilities and academic knowledge up to the level of sixth grade of Primary education or GBE, though as of second or third grade, they need special support. Adults with a mild intellectual impairment develop social and communicative abilities similar to those of their unimpaired colleagues; many are not recognised as retarded outside of school or after finishing their education. They achieve a minimum level of autonomy and become integrated in special employment centres or in ordinary employment with support.

#### 1.5 *Borderline intelligence*

This refers to persons with an I.Q. between 70 and 85, with difficulties in adapting to the demands of the environment and to competitive environments. Up until adolescence, they present the same interests as the rest of the children their age, and afterwards, they present social adaptation problems. Adolescents can acquire practical abilities and academic knowledge until the level of sixth grade of Primary education or GBE, and in secondary education, they require special support. Persons with borderline intelligence are capable of acquiring a minimum independence with their almost total social and/or labour abilities, though they require support occasionally. They do not usually have the legal recognition of disability (Disability Certificate).

#### 1.6 *Dementia*

This is a progressive loss of the cerebral functions that affect memory, and can also be accompanied by alterations in behaviour, learning and communication. It refers to all types of dementia, including Alzheimer's and those impairments that follow degenerative processes that eventually cause dementia, and on which the age of the person has a decisive influence.

#### 1.7 *Mental illness*

This refers to several mental alterations with a duration longer than two years. Their consequences hamper or prevent the development of their functional abilities, in basic aspects of life, affecting the family, social and labour areas. These persons therefore require psychiatric and social attention. The following are included: schizophrenia and other schizoid disorders, paranoid-

type disorders and affective disorders (maniacal disorder, bipolar disorder, chronic depression with/without psychotic symptoms).

### **1.8 Other mental and behavioural disorders**

This refers to persons with impairments of the general and specific mental functions, which have their origin in: organic mental disorders (for example, an alcoholic psychosis), autistic-spectrum disorders, generalised development disorders, phobias, obsessions, somatic disorders, hypochondrias, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, adaptive and somatoform disorders, personality disorder, etc.

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## **Visual impairments**

*This refers to persons with functional impairment of the visual organ and of the associated structures and functions, including the eyelids.*

### **2.1 Total blindness**

This refers to persons who have no perception of light in either eye.

### **2.2 Poor eyesight**

This refers to persons with moderate (<0.3) or serious (<0.12) visual impairments, or with moderate (60° diameter or less) or serious (20° or less) impairments in their visual field.

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## **Hearing impairments**

*This refers to persons with impairments of functions and structures associated with the hearing organ.*

### **3.1 Prelocution deafness**

This refers to persons with deafness that manifests itself prior to language acquisition (children). This includes deaf-muteness where muteness is a consequence of prelocution deafness.

### **3.2 Postlocution deafness**

This refers to persons with deafness that manifests itself after language acquisition (adults), with total hearing loss, and who cannot benefit from the use of hearing aids.

### **3.3 Hard of hearing**

This refers to persons with different degrees of hearing loss: moderate (45-50 dB), severe (71-91 dB), profound (>91 dB). These persons can benefit from the use of hearing aids.

### **3.4 Balance disorders**

This refers to persons with labyrinthine vertigo (Meniere's disease being the most common type), dizziness and locomotion defects due to vestibular disorders.

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## **Language, speech and voice impairments**

*This refers to persons with language comprehension and/or production impairments, speech production and/or articulation impairments, and voice disorders.*

### **4.1 Muteness (not through deafness)**

This refers to persons whose sound production organs are normal, but are mute as a result of brain damage to the speech centres, mental disorders, certain types of autism, etc.

### **4.2 Difficult or incomprehensible speech**

This refers to persons with serious language after-effects, such as aphasia, dysphasia, dysarthria, dysphonia, dysphemia, etc., resulting from brain damage to the speech centres caused by, for instance, a CVA (cerebrovascular accident), craniocerebral traumatism, language disorders associated with dementia, mental retardation, etc.

**CVA** is the generic name given to a group of cerebral diseases of a vascular origin. These include brain haemorrhage, cerebral thrombosis and cerebral embolism.

**Aphasia:** Loss or impairment of the ability to express oneself through speech, writing or signs, or to understand written or spoken language, as a result of disease or damage affecting brain centres. There are many different types of aphasia. **Dysarthria:** An imperfect articulation of speech due to an impaired muscle control caused by damage to the nervous system. **Dysphonia:** A deviance in voice intensity, tone and pitch. **Dysphemia:** Stuttering.

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## **Osteoarticular impairments**

*This refers to persons with mechanical and motor alterations of the face, head, neck and limbs, as well as the absence of limbs, resulting from damage to the support elements of the body (principally the skeletal system).*

### **5.1 Head**

This refers to persons with structural impairments, malformations and/or functional defects of the bones and articulations of the head and/or face (anomalies affecting the mouth, teeth, cleft lip, etc.).

### **5.2 Spinal column**

This refers to persons with impairments due to congenital malformations (e.g. spina bifida), acquired deformities (Kyphosis: an excessive backward curvature; Scoliosis: an excessive lateral curvature; Lordosis: an excessive curvature towards the front; Combinations thereof: kyphoscoliosis, lordoscoliosis, etc.); alterations of the vertebrae (intervertebral hernia, collapsed vertebrae due to osteoporosis, for example) after-effects of injuries, infections, rheumatism (osteoarthrosis: a form of degenerative rheumatism caused by age, that involves no articular deformation; arthritis: a form of rheumatism consisting of the inflammation of the articulations with articular deformation, etc.).

### **5.3 Upper limbs**

This refers to persons with congenital and/or acquired anomalies of the shoulder, arms, hands (absence thereof, defects affecting bone length or width), articular defects (ankylosis, function impairments, etc.).

### **5.4 Lower limbs**

This refers to persons with congenital and/or acquired anomalies of the bones, articular defects, etc.; defects in the pelvis, the knees (varus ( ) or valgus X), ankles and feet (flat, hollow, varus, valgus, club, etc.).

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## **Nervous system impairments**

*This refers to persons with serious anomalies in the structures and/or functions of their central and peripheral nervous systems (regardless of the cause: malformation, infection, tumours, etc.) affecting the musculoskeletal system and the articulations.*

### **6.1 Paralysis of an upper limb**

This refers to persons with a total loss of mobility of an upper limb (monoplegia). If the paralysis is partial or incomplete, the condition is called monoparesis.

### **6.2 Paralysis of a lower limb**

This refers to persons with a total loss of mobility of a lower limb (monoplegia) or a partial or incomplete paralysis (monoparesis).

### **6.3 Paraplegia**

This refers to persons with a total loss of mobility of both lower limbs, regardless of the cause (injury, infection, degeneration, tumour, etc.). Partial or incomplete loss (paraparesis) is also considered.

### **6.4 Tetraplegia**

This refers to persons with a total loss of mobility of all four limbs. Partial loss (tetraparesis) is also considered.

### **6.5 Motor coordination and/or muscle tone disorders**

This refers to persons with impairments of the CNS (central nervous system), causing movement lack of coordination, involuntary movements, tremors, tics, stereotypy (persistent repetition of acts, movements, words or phrases linked to different conditions, particularly mental disease), balance alterations, non-labyrinthine vertigo (including essential vertigo, hysterical vertigo, vertigo caused by cerebral arteriosclerosis, diseases of the central nervous system, cardiopathy) and impairments due to an increase or decrease in muscular tone. Also included are disorders of the CNS, such as Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, etc.

### **6.6 Other impairments of the nervous system**

This refers to persons with muscular dystrophy (degeneration of the muscle with progressive atrophy, without observable injury of the spinal cord), partial atrophy, hemiplegia, etc.

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## **Visceral impairments**

### **7.1 Respiratory tract**

This refers to persons with a serious impairment of their respiratory functions, with respect to their frequency, intensity, rhythm, presence of structural defects in some part of the respiratory tract, etc. It includes persons who depend on artificial devices to maintain their respiration, tracheotomised persons, etc.

### **7.2 Cardiovascular system**

This refers to persons with serious impairments of their cardiac functions (frequency, rhythm, cardiac output volume, etc.), as well as the functions of the blood vessels (arterial system, venous system, capillary system, etc.). It also includes serious malformations of the heart, heart valves, etc. This group includes persons who are dependent on any device or apparatus acting on the heart or the valve system, to maintain their functions, such as artificial valves, pacemakers, transplants, etc.

### **7.3 Digestive system**

This refers to persons with serious impairments in the functions and/or structures of the different sections of the digestive tract (mouth, tongue, oesophagus, intestine), causing difficulty in chewing, swallowing, digesting, etc. It also considers malformations, obstructions, serious disorders involving vomiting, diarrhoea, excessive weight loss, etc., in addition to serious functional and/or structural disorders of the glands attached to the digestive tract, including the gall bladder, liver and pancreas, as well as any after-effects of surgery (stomas, fistulas, etc.).

### **7.4 Genitourinary system**

This refers to persons with serious impairments affecting the functions of the kidneys, ureters, bladder, urethra, sphincters, etc. (severe renal insufficiency, retention, urinary incontinence, etc.) and malformations of said organs, as well as the dependence on special devices such as catheters, artificial kidneys, etc. Regarding the genital system (internal, external, male or female), serious anatomical and/or functional defects are considered, including severe disorders in the fulfilment of the sexual functions, sterility, etc.

### **7.5 Endocrine-metabolic system**

This refers to persons with serious impairments due to disorders of the endocrine glands (dwarfism, gigantism, hyper/hypothyroidism, disorders of the adrenal glands, diabetes, obesity, etc.). Likewise, this includes serious impairments due to congenital metabolic errors (of proteins: Phenylketonuria, Tyrosinemia, etc.; of fats: Hypercholesterolemia, Lipid storage disorders, Hypertriglycerinemia, etc.; of sugars: Galactosemia, Fructose intolerance, etc.)

### **7.6 Haematopoietic system and immune system**

This refers to persons with serious impairments due to disorders of the haematopoietic organs (bone marrow, spleen, ganglia, etc.) and/or of the blood components (cells, plasma), alterations of coagulation and/or haemostasis (haemophilia). Regarding the immune system, serious disorders

are considered, be they congenital or acquired (repeated infections, immune-based diseases, severe allergies, etc.).

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## **Other impairments**

### **8.1 Skin**

This refers to persons with serious impairments due to functional/structural skin disorders (regulation, moisture, temperature, pain, pigmentation, allergic reactions, itches, regeneration defects, etc.) and serious disorders of parts attached to the skin (nails, hair, glands).

### **8.2 Multiple impairments**

This refers to persons with impairments that affect several organs and/or organic systems, and that are due to **congenital or acquired** disorders. Among the former are congenital poly-malformations due to chromosomopathies, embriopathies (rubella, toxoplasmosis), fetopathies (for example, cleft lip and palate and polydactylism), and any congenital poly-malformative syndrome.

### **8.3 Impairments not classified elsewhere**