

DEFINITIONS AND TERMINOLOGIES

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Welcome to the first lesson about Psychiatric and Behavioral Emergencies. We'll begin by defining a few important terminologies to provide a foundation for the rest of the chapter.
Good Studying.

What is Behavior?

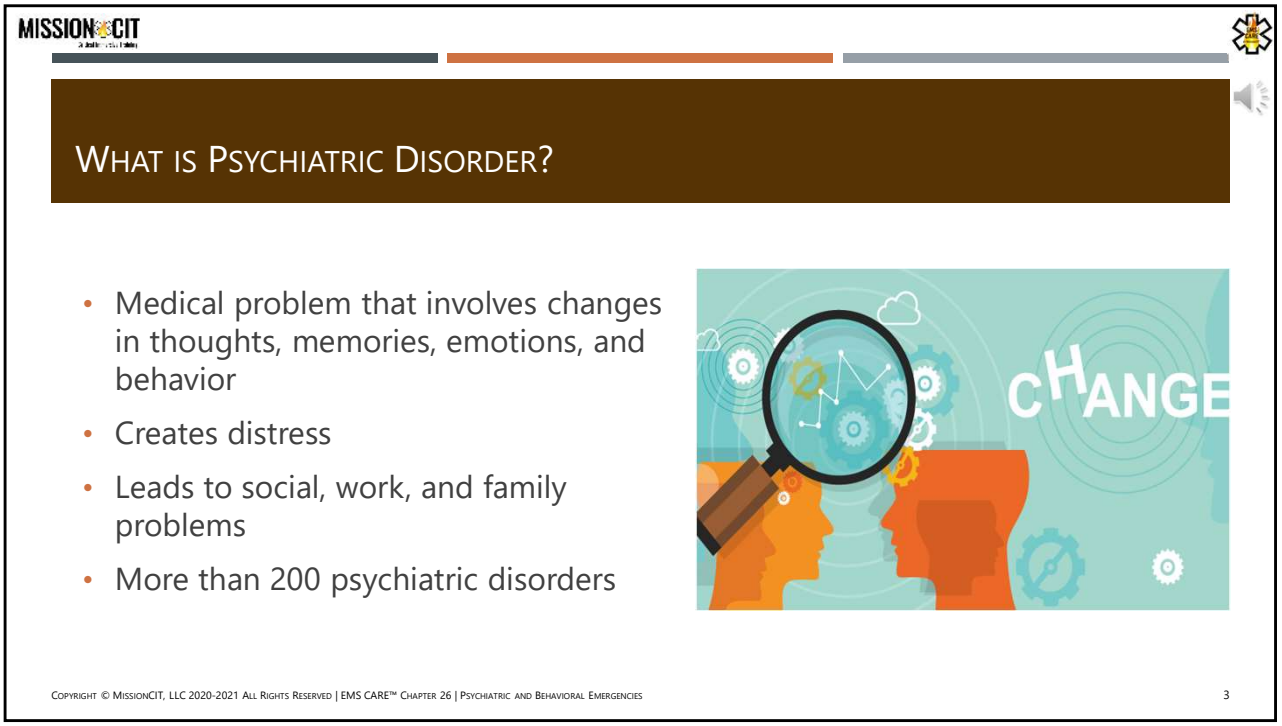
- Response of an individual or group to the environment
- Includes external and internal environments
- Internal environment is thought and emotion
- Analyzed through the lens of psychology



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The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines behavior as the response of an individual, group, or species to the environment.

From a psychiatric point of view, this response can be to the external environment or to internal thoughts and emotions. Also, here, behavior is the action that is analyzed through the lens of psychology with an aim to draw a link between behavior and psychology, and in the process, identify the problems that it may indicate.



Broadly speaking, a psychiatric disorder is a medical problem that involves big changes in the thoughts, emotions, and behavior of individuals. It creates distress in individuals and leads to problems in social, work, and family activities.

Mental Health America identifies more than 200 psychiatric disorders, though some of the most commonly diagnosed ones include,

- Anxiety or panic disorder
- Depression
- Bipolar disorder

- Schizophrenia
- Depression
- Addictive disorders

What is Behavioral Emergency?

- Situation where an individual is a threat to oneself and others
- Actions are unacceptable to family and community
- Requires assessment and treatment



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Coming to the last definition of this lesson, a behavioral emergency is a situation where an individual is a threat to oneself or others. It also includes cases where an individual's actions are unacceptable to the family or community and require assessment and treatment in a safe and therapeutic setting.

In this situation, the patient may seem confused and can have an altered mental status.

With this, we have come to the end of this lesson, and in the next one, Justin will take you through the epidemiology of psychiatric disorders.