

# DIAGNOSTIC CHALLENGES OF DUAL DIAGNOSIS



## MEDICAL COMPLICATIONS

Health and medical conditions are common in individuals with IDD. Associated symptoms, medications, and characteristics can mask as behavior challenges or psychiatric conditions.



## LIMITED COMMUNICATION

Individuals with IDD often have communication deficits and cannot self-report their feelings, thoughts, and symptoms. Assessment for mental illness is primarily collected from observable behavior.



## BEHAVIORAL CONSIDERATIONS

Behavioral manifestations may be associated with medical conditions or used as a form of communication. Irritability and physical aggression may be due to discomfort, pain, or internal distress.



## PSYCHIATRIC SYMPTOMS

Symptoms present differently in individuals with IDD than the general populations. They are also more likely to take multiple medications and side effects can mimic psychiatric disorders.

# REFERENCES

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