

Quick Guide

Types of Psychosis Reference Table

This Quick Guide is not an exhaustive list. Please use this table in conjunction with the rest of the Practice Guideline.

Type of Psychosis	Key Features	Duration	Distinguishing Points
Schizotypal Personality Disorder	Odd beliefs, unusual perceptual experiences, eccentric behavior, odd thinking/speech, social anxiety	Begins in adolescence; chronic	A personality disorder; symptoms are psychotic-like but not full delusions or hallucinations
Delusional Disorder	Fixed false beliefs; minimal hallucinations; functioning mostly preserved	At least 1 month	Includes erotomanic, grandiose, jealous, persecutory, somatic, mixed, unspecified subtypes
Brief Psychotic Disorder	Sudden onset of hallucinations, delusions, or disorganization; often stress-related	1 day to <1 month	Full return to premorbid functioning; identical to schizophrenia Criterion A but brief
Schizophrenia	Delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech/behavior, negative symptoms, functional decline	≥ 6 months (≥ 1 month active)	Requires ≥2 Criterion A symptoms; includes prodromal and residual phases; excludes mood/medical causes
Schizophreniform Disorder	Same symptoms as schizophrenia	1 to 6 months	Duration defines disorder; may resolve or progress to schizophrenia, bipolar, or schizoaffective
Bipolar Disorder w/ Psychosis	Mania and/or depression with mood-congruent psychosis	Variable	Psychosis occurs only during mood episodes; content reflects mood state
Schizoaffective Disorder	Schizophrenia symptoms plus mood episodes	Variable but chronic	Psychosis occurs ≥2 weeks without mood symptoms; mood present majority of illness
Major Depression w/ Psychosis	Severe depression with psychosis	Duration of depressive episode	Psychosis occurs only during depression; usually mood-congruent
Drug-Induced Psychosis	Psychosis triggered by substances	Often resolves after substance fades	Clear link to substance use; may unmask underlying vulnerability
Organic Psychosis	Psychosis caused by medical illness or brain injury	Depends on condition	Requires medical evaluation; improves with treatment of medical cause