

COURSE SPECIFIERS FOR SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCE

There are six course specifiers available for Substance Dependence.

The four **Remission Specifiers** can be applied only after none of the criteria for Substance Dependence or Substance Abuse have been present for at least 1 month. The definition of these four types of Remission is based on the interval of time that has elapsed since the cessation of Dependence (Early versus Sustained Remission) and whether there is continued presence of one or more of the items included in the criteria sets for Dependence or Abuse (Partial versus Full Remission).

1. **Early Full Remission:** for at least 1 month, but less than 12 months, no criteria for substance dependence or abuse have been met
2. **Early Partial Remission:** for at least 1 month, but less than 12 months, one or more of the criteria for dependence or abuse have been met
3. **Sustained Full Remission:** none of the criteria for dependence or abuse have been met at any time during a period of 12 months.
4. **Sustained Partial Remission:** full criteria for dependence have not been met for 12 months or longer, however one or more criteria for dependence or abuse have been met.

Because the first 12 months following Dependence is a time of particularly high risk for relapse, this period is designated Early Remission. After 12 months of early Remission have passed without relapse to Dependence, the person enters into Sustained Remission.

Note: These Remission Specifiers do not apply if the individual is on agonist therapy or in a controlled environment (see below).

5. **On Agonist Therapy:** the individual is on a prescribed agonist medication (example - methadone) and no criteria for dependence or abuse have been met for that class of medication for at least the past month (except tolerance to, or withdrawal from the agonist).
6. **In A Controlled Environment:** the individual is in an environment where access to alcohol and controlled substances is restricted and no criteria for dependence or abuse have been met for the last month. Examples: closely supervised and substance-free prisons, therapeutic communities, or locked hospital units.

For an individual to qualify for Early Remission after cessation of agonist therapy or release from a controlled environment, there must be a 1-month period in which none of the criteria for Dependence or Abuse are met.