
   The information on this website is consistent with the correct ICD-9 code 301.13 and full DSM-IV-TR criteria. The criteria are bulleted for easy readability. There is not a disclaimer to warn readers not to diagnose themselves. They do specify that the symptoms should not be better accounted for by other disorders or medical conditions e.g. hyperthyroidism. While credible references are cited from peer reviewed journals and the American Psychiatric Association, anyone can author or edit the Wikipedia information at any time, which makes the credibility of this site uncertain.

   Wikipedia is a registered trademark of the Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., which is a non-profit organization (.org). The site appears objective with the goal to help a layperson to understand information about cyclothymia, or cyclothymic disorder. There were not any advertisements and the site is free. It is not clear what part of the site was updated in 2015, however the most recent reference was published in 2012. The DSM-V information is not cited but the DSM-IV-TR is fairly timely. Coverage was comprehensive with symptomology definitions, diagnosis criteria, prevalence, etymology, differential diagnosis, causes, medication and therapy. External links for more information were also included. The information was available in 25 different languages. The website had useful information but clients would need to be aware that the information could be incorrectly changed by anyone at any time.


   The information about cyclothymia includes a very brief description of the symptoms. The specific DSM criteria are not included but the information is accurate. The author is not listed but was reviewed by a referenced medical doctor. There were advertisements on the site, including ones for medication. This could potentially be a bias towards what they choose to include in their article based on their funding source. The title WebMD sounds like a trusted place to ask medical doctor questions but there is a disclaimer at the very bottom saying they do not provide medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. It is also a .com website, which means that it belongs to a company and may be used for commercial reasons.

   The article portrayed cyclothymia in a negative manner, using words such as “wreak havoc” and did not include resources where people could go to for more information or help. They did include the references of the journals the information was based on. While recently updated in 2014, the coverage was scant. Despite the concerns listed above, WebMD is a popular site for patients and clients to view information. Some readers may find the brief version helpful to quickly skim the symptoms or as an introduction to the causes, treatments, prevalence, and problems that the disorder may cause.

   The information on the website is balanced with accurate information, written clearly in the second person which readers may feel is more personal. The author is listed as the Mayo Clinic Staff, which links to a general description of their team of experts and then links to the list of medical editors. Most of the editors are M.D.s with a few R.N.s and R.D.s. The reference section is well organized with peer reviewed articles and the American Psychiatric Association. The site did contain advertisements, including for medications. However, it was interesting they included a disclaimer that they do not endorse non-Mayo products and had a link to their advertising policies, criteria, and contact information for questions. The Mayo Clinic is a not-for-profit organization and complies with the HONcode standard for trustworthy health information. The site is objective and up to date in covering information that someone would want to know about this disorder.

   The website was very comprehensive and easy to read. This was the only website to include the pronunciation of the disorder. The DSM-IV-TR criteria were bulleted in second person. Medications and different types of psychotherapy were listed with descriptions of how they can help or not help with the symptoms. They also included coping techniques such as joining a support group and trying stress-reduction techniques. They also include recommendations of when to see the doctor in an open, non-judgmental manner. This site is also the only one reviewed that included what to do if a reader is having suicidal thoughts with clear instructions of who to contact for help. They also included helpful information on how to prepare for an appointment with the doctor with sample questions, information to prepare in advance, and what to expect during an appointment. Despite the advertisements, this was an excellent website for clients to use and obtain clear information in a warm, personal language.


   The website is titled Medline Plus, which is a service of the U.S. National Library of Medicine at the National Institutes of Health. The information is fairly accurate but extremely light in information. The specific DSM information is not listed. There is no inclusion of differential diagnosis; however, it does report that a health care provider should order tests to rule out medical causes of mood swings. The authors and reviewers are listed as M.D.s and Ph.Ds.

   The information is succinct and written for a layperson. People that want to skim quickly may appreciate this website as it highlights basic information. The information was updated in the past year. Coverage includes about one sentence per each of the following sections: causes, symptoms, exams and tests, treatment, support groups, possible complications, when to contact a medical professional, and references. The webpage included the logo for A.D.A.M., Inc., which is accredited by URAC to follow quality standards. At the bottom of the page, they included a disclaimer that the information should not be used for a medical emergency or for treatment and included a prompt to call 911 for emergencies. There was not very much scientific or detailed information on the website that someone looking for information from the NIH might expect.

The webpage is accurate and recently updated the criteria summary from the DSM-V. The summary of symptoms is a little confusing and would be easier to read in bullet points. There are also a couple of *Notes added in the middle which is distracting. There are advertisements on the page, including ones for medications. The author is listed as Psych Central Staff without a link to their contact information; information was last reviewed by a PsyD. In 2014. There is a logo at the bottom that says “Scientifically Reviewed” without information about the source of the logo.

Although the content is light, it seems objective. The first page covers the symptoms with a link at the bottom to learn more about general treatment. The next page includes general information written for a layperson in third person about psychotherapy, medications, and self-help. At the bottom of this page is a link to symptoms, which takes you to the first page. There is only one reference listed, which is the American Psychiatric Association for the symptom criteria summary, but no references for the treatment page. There was not very much information on the website, which some readers may find helpful when they are first learning about the basic information. The website is a .gov, which means that it is a governmental website. A reader may find the website helpful if they just want to skim some basic information about cyclothymic disorder.