

# **TDOM CARD: Classification of Impairments of origin for children under 6 years of age**

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## **01. Mental impairments**

## **02. Visual impairments**

## **03. Hearing impairments**

## **04. Language, speech and voice impairments**

### **Osteoarticular impairments**

5.3 Upper limbs

5.4 Lower limbs

5.9 Other osteoarticular impairments

## **06. Nervous system impairments**

## **07. Visceral impairments**

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## **DESCRIPTION OF IMPAIRMENT CATEGORIES.**

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### **1. Mental impairments**

#### ***Developmental delay***

This refers to children up to the age of 14, whose mental development is below normal. Due to their level of maturity, these children may display behavioural and learning problems.

#### ***Profound and severe intellectual impairment***

This refers to children with deficiencies in the areas of psychomotor and language development, and in their educational and behavioural process (for example, children who at the age of 3 are unable to walk or speak, and are hardly able to communicate through gestures or articulated sounds. They only know their close relatives, do not respond to simple orders and have hardly developed any self-care habits).

#### ***Moderate, mild or borderline intellectual impairment***

This refers to children with deficiencies in the areas of development described in the preceding paragraph (for example, speaking deficiencies in children above the age of 3).

#### ***Other mental and behavioural disorders***

This refers to children with autism, phobias, schizophrenia, neuroses, hyperactivity, etc.

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### **2. Visual impairments**

*This refers to children with functional impairments of the sight organ and its associated structures and functions, including the eyelids.*

#### ***Total blindness***

This refers to children with no perception of light in either eye.

### **Poor eyesight**

This refers to children with moderate (<0.3) or serious (<0.12) visual impairments, or with moderate (60° diameter or less) or serious (20° or less) impairments in their visual field.

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## **3. Hearing impairments**

*This refers to children with impairments in the functions and structures associated with the hearing organ.*

### **Prelocution deafness**

This refers to children with deafness that manifests itself prior to language acquisition. This includes deaf-muteness where muteness is a consequence of prelocution deafness.

### **Postlocution deafness**

This refers to children with deafness that manifests itself after language acquisition, where loss of hearing is total. These children cannot benefit from the use of hearing aids.

### **Hard of hearing**

This refers to children with different levels of hearing loss: moderate (45-50 dB), severe (71-91 dB), profound (>91 dB). These children can benefit from the use of hearing aids.

### **Balance disorders**

This refers to children with labyrinthine vertigo (Meniere's disease being the most common type), dizziness and locomotion defects due to vestibular disorders.

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## **4. Language, speech and voice impairments**

*This refers to children with language comprehension and/or production impairments, speech production and/or articulation, and voice disorders.*

### **Muteness (not through deafness)**

This refers to children whose sound production organs are normal, but are mute as a result of brain damage to the speech centres, mental disorders, certain types of autism, etc.

### **Difficult or incomprehensible speech**

This refers to children with serious language after-effects, such as aphasia, dysphasia, dysarthria, dysphonia, dysphemia, etc., resulting from brain damage to the speech centres caused by, for instance, a CVA (cerebrovascular accident), craniocerebral traumatism, language disorders associated with dementia, mental retardation, etc.

CVA is the generic name given to a group of cerebral diseases of a vascular origin. These include brain haemorrhage, cerebral thrombosis and cerebral embolism.

Aphasia: Loss or impairment of the ability to express oneself through speech, writing or signs, or to understand written or spoken language, as a result of disease or damage affecting brain centres. There are many different types of aphasia. Dysarthria: An imperfect articulation of speech due to an impaired muscle control caused by damage to the nervous system. Dysphonia: A deviance in voice intensity, tone and pitch. Dysphemia: Stuttering.

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## **Osteoarticular impairments**

*This refers to children with mechanical and motor alterations of the face, head, neck and limbs, as well as the absence of limbs, resulting from damage to the support elements of the body (principally the skeletal system).*

### **5.3. Upper limbs**

This refers to children with congenital and/or acquired anomalies of the shoulder, arms, hands (absence thereof, defects affecting bone length or width), articular defects (ankylosis, function impairments, etc.).

#### **5.4. Lower limbs**

This refers to children with congenital and/or acquired anomalies of the bones, articular defects, defects in the pelvis, the knees (varus ( ) or valgus X), ankles and feet (flat, hollow, varus, valgus, club, etc.).

#### **5.9. Other osteoarticular impairments**

This refers to children with structural impairments, malformations and/or functional defects of the bones and articulations of the head and/or face (anomalies affecting the mouth, teeth, cleft lip, etc.).

It also includes persons with impairments due to congenital malformations (e.g. spina bifida), acquired deformities (Kyphosis: an excessive backward curvature; Scoliosis: an excessive lateral curvature; Lordosis: an excessive curvature towards the front; Combinations thereof: kyphoscoliosis, lordoscoliosis, etc.); alterations of the vertebrae (intervertebral hernia, collapsed vertebrae due to osteoporosis, for example) after-effects of injuries, infections, rheumatism (osteoarthritis: a form of degenerative rheumatism caused by age, that involves no articular deformation; arthritis: a form of rheumatism consisting of the inflammation of the articulations with articular deformation, etc.).

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### **6. Nervous system impairments**

*This refers to children with serious anomalies in the structures and/or functions of their central and peripheral nervous systems (regardless of the cause: malformation, infection, tumours, etc.) affecting the musculoskeletal system and the articulations*

#### **Paralysis of an upper limb**

This refers to children with a total loss of mobility of an upper limb (monoplegia). If the paralysis is partial or incomplete, the condition is called monoparesis.

#### **Paralysis of a lower limb**

This refers to children with a total loss of mobility of a lower limb (monoplegia) or a partial or incomplete paralysis (monoparesis).

#### **Paraplegia**

This refers to children with a total loss of mobility of both lower limbs, regardless of the cause (injury, infection, degeneration, tumour, etc.). Partial or incomplete loss (paraparesis) is also considered.

#### **Tetraplegia**

This refers to children with a total loss of mobility of all four limbs. Partial loss (tetraparesis) is also considered.

#### **Motor and/or muscular tone coordination disorders**

This refers to children with impairments of the CNS (central nervous system), causing movement lack of coordination, involuntary movements, tremors, tics, stereotypy (persistent repetition of acts, movements, words or phrases linked to different conditions, particularly mental disease), balance alterations, non-labyrinthine vertigo (including essential vertigo, hysterical vertigo, vertigo caused by cerebral arteriosclerosis, diseases of the central nervous system, cardiopathy) and impairments due to an increase or decrease in muscular tone. Also included are disorders of the CNS, such as Parkinson's disease, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, etc.

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## **7. Visceral impairments**

### **Respiratory tract**

This refers to children with a serious impairment of their respiratory functions, with respect to their frequency, intensity, rhythm, presence of structural defects in some part of the respiratory tract, etc.

### **Cardiovascular system**

This refers to children with serious impairments of their cardiac functions (frequency, rhythm, cardiac output volume, etc.), as well as the functions of the blood vessels (arterial system, venous system, capillary system, etc.). It also includes serious malformations of the heart, heart valves, etc. This group includes persons who are dependent on any device or apparatus acting on the heart or the valve system, to maintain their functions, such as artificial valves, pacemakers, transplants, etc.

### **Digestive tract**

This refers to children with serious impairments in the functions and/or structures of the different sections of the digestive tract (mouth, tongue, oesophagus, intestine), causing difficulty in chewing, swallowing, digesting, etc. It also considers malformations, obstructions, serious disorders involving vomiting, diarrhoea, excessive weight loss, etc., in addition to serious functional and/or structural disorders of the glands attached to the digestive tract, including the gall bladder, liver and pancreas, as well as any after-effects of surgery (stomas, fistulas, etc.).

### **Genitourinary system**

This refers to children with serious impairments affecting the functions of the kidneys, ureters, bladder, urethra, sphincters, etc. (serious renal insufficiency, retention, urinary incontinence, etc.) and malformations of said organs, as well as the dependence on special devices such as catheters, artificial kidneys, etc. Regarding the genital system (internal, external, male or female), serious anatomical defects are considered.

### **Endocrine-metabolic system**

This refers to children with serious impairments due to disorders of the endocrine glands (dwarfism, gigantism, hyper/hypothyroidism, disorders of the adrenal glands, diabetes, obesity, etc.). Likewise, this includes serious impairments due to congenital metabolic errors (of proteins: Phenylketonuria, Tyrosinemia, etc.; of fats: Hypercholesterolemia, Lipid storage disorders, Hypertriglycerinemia, etc.; of sugars: Galactosemia, Fructose intolerance, etc.)

### **Haematopoietic system and immune system**

This refers to children with serious impairments due to disorders of the haematopoietic organs (bone marrow, spleen, ganglia, etc.) and/or of the blood components (cells, plasma), alterations of coagulation and/or haemostasis (haemophilia). Regarding the immune system, serious disorders are considered, be they congenital or acquired (repeated infections, immune-based diseases, severe allergies, etc.).

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## **8. Other impairments**

*This refers to children with serious impairments due to functional/structural skin disorders (regulation, moisture, temperature, pain, pigmentation, allergic reactions, itches, regeneration defects, etc.) and serious disorders of parts attached to the skin (nails, hair, glands).*

### **Multiple impairments**

This refers to persons with impairments that affect several organs and/or organic systems, and that are due to congenital disorders. It includes congenital poly-malformations due to chromosome abnormalities, embryopathies (rubella, toxoplasmosis), fetopathies (for example, cleft lip and palate and polydactylism), and any congenital poly-malformative syndrome.