

G) Mental Retardation

According to the American Association on Mental Retardation (AAMR), an individual is considered to have mental retardation based on the following three criteria:

Intellectual functioning level (IQ) is below 70-75.

Significant limitations exist in two or more adaptive skill areas and the condition is present from childhood (defined as age 18 or less.).

■ **The person's intellectual functioning is markedly below average (IQ of 70 or less on a standard, individually administered test).**

■ **In 2 or more of the following areas, the patient has more trouble functioning than would be expected for age and cultural group:**

Communication

Self-care

Home living

Social and interpersonal skills

Using community resources

Self-direction

Academic ability

Work

Free time

Health

Safety

■ **Starts before age 18.**

Associated Features:

Under developed motor skills

Under developed language skills

Under developed self-help skills

Developing at a far slower rate than the child's peers.