Pedro is a 24 year old single Mexican American male, and the oldest son of his first generation American migrant farming parents. Pedro has three younger brothers who all looked up to him while growing up. The family was proud of Pedro the day he enlisted in the United States Army. He engaged in combat several times while in Iraq but was spared injury until the day the Humvee he was riding in ran over a roadside Improvised Explosive Device. The vehicle’s extra armor plating protected Pedro from the flying shrapnel; however, the explosion’s shock waves caused him to suffer from symptoms consistent with a closed head injury. Also, the force of the explosion ruptured his eardrums, permanently impairing his hearing. Pedro was honorably discharged following a medical examination and returned to Northwest Ohio. He felt disconnected from the person he was before he left for the military duty. He had difficulty falling asleep almost every night and found himself frequently thinking about what he had seen and experienced while in combat. He felt alone and isolated from his family, who had returned to Texas for the winter. To support himself, he accepted an offer to work as a manager at a local grocery store. He quickly found it difficult to motivate himself to go to work each day. His employer, a Vietnam-era veteran, felt obliged to continue Pedro’s employment out of loyalty to a fellow soldier, but made no effort to hide the fact that Pedro’s work was inadequate. He liked to complain to his subordinates about catching Pedro staring off into space and how he often came late and left early. As time went on, Pedro found himself spending more time at the VFW post in the next town over. He spent more time drinking beer. On more than one occasion he has found himself drinking until closing. Last week, he crashed his car into a parked car and landed in a ditch on the drive home from the VFW at 2:00 in the morning. He was found passed out at the wheel by the deputy sheriff and transported him to the local hospital. He escaped the crash uninjured even though his car was totaled. He was cited for DUI and destruction of property. Pedro retained an attorney that advised him it would look good if he submitted himself to a drug and alcohol assessment at the VA hospital. Pedro doubted that he had an alcohol problem but upon his attorney advice he complied. He has been following through with his appointments. Pedro counselor met for approximately 2 hours, during which time he completed the MAST, SASSI-3, and the counselor administered ASI. Pedro’s responses to the MAST produced a score of 12. The SASSI-3 classified Pedro as likely substance dependent based on his elevated FVA scale score. The results of the ASI were consistent with the MAST and SASSI-3 but further suggested that Pedro receive a referral for a dual diagnosis assessment to rule out additional psychological sequelae-post traumatic stress disorder in particular. Pedro’s counselor concluded that his presenting features supported the following DSM-IV-TR diagnosis:

Axis I: 309.9 Alcohol Dependence Rule out 309.81 Posttraumatic Stress Disorder

Axis II: 799.9 Deferred

Axis III: None, by patient report

Axis IV: Occupational Problems, Legal Problems

Axis V: Current GAF: 55 Past year GAF: 70.

Pedro was advised of the counselor’s diagnosis and treatment recommendations. He decided to accept the recommendations to schedule an intake interview with the PTSD department and to place himself on the waiting list for inpatient alcohol dependence treatment. However, he felt it would be too embarrassing for him to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings in his community.