

MEDICALLY COMPLEX CERTIFICATION

Introduction:

The Department's Health Management and Oversight Division (HMO) is responsible to promote pediatric health and wellness by providing best practice guidelines, to ensure access to healthcare services; and to ensure caregivers receive access to training for children with complex medical needs.

The Department is entrusted with the care approximately 200 children that are classified as *Medically Complex*. There are 4 medically complex classifications levels that are based on the medical care needs of a child who has a diagnosed medical condition. The conditions and associated care needs range from chronic health conditions which are under good control (level 1) to chronic health conditions that require a mechanical or special technological intervention to maintain or sustain life. (Level 4)

Frequently Asked Questions

How is a child classified as medically complex?

The child's healthcare provider identifies the medical care needs for that child. The RRG Nurse in consultation with the healthcare provider determine the appropriate medically complex classification level based on the DCF practice guidelines: *Health Care Practice of Children and Youth in Care*

Does the medically complex classification level ever change?

The RRG nurse in consultation with the healthcare provider reviews the classification level and medical care needs every 6 months. The levels may go up, down or remain the same and is based on the child's *current* medical care needs.

What are the Training requirements for caregivers of children classified as medically Complex?

Child Specific Medical Training (CSMT)

- This is a **mandatory** training for all caregivers (foster parents and back-up caregivers) to review the specific care needs for that child.
- Training must be given by a healthcare provider who knows the child's healthcare needs.
- This training **MUST** occur prior to placing the child in the home.
- Foster Parents **MUST** attend the CSMT for that child.
- Children's care needs may increase or change while under your care therefore CSMT may continue through ongoing medical appointments. It is important for foster parents to attend all medical appointments for children in their care so they can stay knowledgeable about their child's medical condition and ongoing needs.

Other Training requirements

Classification Level 1:

1. Web based "Online" courses:
 - Fostering Health for Children in Foster Care (3 modules)
 - Medication Safety for Foster Parents (recommended)
2. CPR certification
 - age- appropriate
 - Class must include in person *hands on* return demonstration

Classification Levels 2, 3 & 4:

1. Web based "Online" courses:
 - Fostering Health for Children in Foster Care (3 modules)
 - Medication Safety for Foster Parents (recommended)
2. CPR certification
 - age- appropriate
 - Class must include in person *hands on* return demonstration
3. Medically Complex Certified course through DCF Central Office (currently being offered virtual by the medically complex program nurse)

Recertification Requirements

1. Maintain current CPR certification.
2. Continuing education is related to the needs of this population of children and their caregivers.

Who do I contact if I have questions about my child's classification level and or the training requirements associated with the classification level?

Your child's DCF social worker.