The Standard Operational Definition for Children with Medical Complexity who are Medically Fragile and/or Technology Dependent:

The PCMCH Standard Operational Definition for Children with Medical Complexity who are Medically Fragile and/or Technology Dependent is as follows:

Under 18 years of age and meets **at least one criterion from EACH of the following four conditions:**

1. Technology Dependent and/or users of high intensity care
   - Child is dependent at least part of each day on mechanical ventilators, and/or child requires prolonged intravenous administration of nutritional substances or drugs and/or child is expected to have prolonged dependence on other device-based support, for example:
     - tracheostomy tube care/artificial airway,
     - suctioning,
     - oxygen support, or
     - tube feeding
   - Child has prolonged dependence on any other medical devices to compensate for vital bodily functions, and requires daily or near daily nursing care, e.g.,
     - cardiorespiratory monitors; and/or
     - renal dialysis due to kidney failure
     - urinary catheters or colostomy bags plus substantial nursing care, and/or
- Child is not technologically dependent but has any chronic condition that requires as great a level of care as the above group, such as:
  - Children who, as a consequence of their illness, are completely physically dependent on others for activities of daily living at an age when they would not otherwise be so dependent
  - Children who require constant medical or nursing (or delegate with competency) supervision or monitoring resulting from the complexity of their condition and/or the complexity of medication administration and/or the quantity of medication and therapy they receive

2. Fragility

- The child has severe and/or life-threatening condition
- Lack of availability and/or failure of equipment/technology or treatment places the child at immediate risk resulting in a negative health outcome
- Short-term changes in the child’s health status (e.g., an intercurrent illness) put them at immediate serious health risk
- As a consequence of the child’s illness, the child remains at significant risk of unpredictable life-threatening deterioration, necessitating round-the-clock monitoring by a knowledgeable caregiver
- Likely to experience exacerbation of chronic condition necessitating assessment by a healthcare provider in a timely manner

3. Chronicity

- The child’s condition is expected to last at least six more months
- The child’s life expectancy is less than six months
4. Complexity

- Involvement of at least five healthcare practitioners/teams and healthcare services are delivered in at least three of the following locations:
  - Home
  - School / Nursing school
  - Hospital
  - Children’s Treatment Centre
  - Community-based clinic (e.g. doctor’s office)
  - Other (at clinician’s discretion)

- The family circumstances impede their ability to provide day-to-day care or decision making for a child with medical complexity
  - For example, the primary caregiver and/or the primary income source are at risk of not being able to complete their day-to-day responsibilities