

The Standard Operational Definition For Children With Medical Complexity Who Are The Focus Of The CCKO Strategy

The PCMCH Standard Operational Definition for Children with Medical Complexity who are the focus of the CCKO Strategy:

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