

Standard Operational Definition for Children with Medical Complexity



To be eligible for Complex Care for Kids Ontario, the child must:

- Be under 18 years of age.
- Meets one criterion (indicated by a check box) from four of the five categories below.
- Medically complex child/youth not currently being followed by a multi-disciplinary team (e.g., diabetes team, cystic fibrosis, or neuromuscular clinics).
Rather, child/youth should continue to be followed in their current team rather than (individual exceptions aside) referred to the Complex Care for Kids Ontario.

TECHNOLOGY DEPENDENT AND/OR USERS OF HIGH INTENSITY CARE	<input type="checkbox"/> Child is dependent on mechanical ventilators, and/or requires prolonged IV administration of nutritional substances or drugs and/or is expected to have prolonged dependence on other device-based support <i>For example: tracheostomy tube care, artificial airway, suctioning, oxygen support, or tube feeding</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Child has prolonged dependence on medical devices to compensate for vital bodily functions, and requires daily/near daily nursing care <i>For example: cardiorespiratory monitors; renal dialysis due to kidney failure</i>		<input type="checkbox"/> Child has any chronic condition that requires great level of care such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child is completely physically dependent on others for activities of daily living (at an age when they would not otherwise be so dependent) • Child requires constant medical or nursing supervision or monitoring, medication administration and/or the quantity of medication and therapy they receive 	
FRAGILITY	<input type="checkbox"/> The child has severe and/or life-threatening condition	<input type="checkbox"/> Lack of availability and/or failure of equipment, technology, or treatment places the child at immediate risk resulting in a negative health outcome	<input type="checkbox"/> Short-term changes in the child’s health status puts them at immediate serious health risk <i>For example: an intercurrent illness</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 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	<input type="checkbox"/> Likely to experience exacerbation of chronic condition necessitating assessment by a healthcare provider in a timely manner	
CHRONICITY	<input type="checkbox"/> The child’s condition is expected to last at least six more months			<input type="checkbox"/> The child’s life expectancy is less than six months		
COMPLEXITY	<input type="checkbox"/> Involvement of at least five healthcare practitioners/ teams and healthcare services are delivered in at least three of the following locations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home, School/ Nursing school • Hospital, • Children’s Treatment Centre, • Community-based clinic (e.g. doctor’s office) • Other (at clinician’s discretion) 			<input type="checkbox"/> The family circumstances impede their ability to provide day-to-day care or decision making for a child with medical complexity <i>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</i>		
GEOGRAPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> Child meets criteria for at least three of the four previous categories, and has significant challenges to seek appropriate medical services based on rurality or access					