



# CHILDREN WITH MEDICALLY FRAGILE NEEDS - CLINICAL CRITERIA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

MEDICAL SERVICES DIVISION

SFN 393 (11-2024)

Name of Child					
CARE ELEMENTS	CARE	POINTS	CARE ELEMENTS	CARE	POINTS
<b>Overall</b>			<b>Neurological</b>		
1. Intervention no more than 2 x noc	2		1. Szs - no intervention (>1x/week)	1	
2. Intervention > 2 x at noc	3		2. Mild-mod szs (min. intervention)		
3. Needs isolation	2		3. - 1x/week - 1 x/day	2	
4. Complicated Med Schedule >q2hr	2		4. - 1-4 x/day	3	
5. Mod ongoing assess	4		5. - >4 x/day	4	
6. Continual assessments	6		6. Mod-sev szs (mod + intervention)		
7. 2-10 hrs per week of LN	2		7. - >1 x/week	5	
8. Needs LN>10 hrs per week	3		8. - >6 x/day	6	
9. Needs LN> 10 hrs per day	6		<b>Respiratory</b>		
10. VS/Neur/Resp assess < q 4hr	2		9. O2 via cannula lowflow rate	2	
11. VS/Neur/Resp assess q 2-4 hr	3		10. O2 unplanned change > 1x/day	3	
12. VS/Neuro/Resp assess q 0-2 hr	4		11. Tracheostomy	5	
<b>Skin/Physical Management</b>			12. Cyanosis req pulse oxim	4	
13. ROM	2		13. CO2 monitor	5	
14. OT (in the home)	2		14. Signif. apnea/brady (req. monitor)	3	
15. PT (in the home)	2		15. Suctioning <q 4 hr	2	
16. Stoma Care (@ stoma)	2		16. Suctioning 1-4 hrs	3	
17. Stage 2 skin breakdown	2		17. Suctioning >q 1 hr	5	
18. Stage 3-4 skin breakdown	4		18. CPT or Neb Rx < q 4 hr	2	
<b>Metabolic</b>			19. CPT or Neb Rx q 2-4 hrs	3	
19. Insulin-dependent	2		20. CPT or Neb Rx > q 2 hrs	5	
20. Glucose monitoring < qid	1		21. Resuscitation within 1 yr	4	
21. Glucose monitoring > qid	2		22. Resuscitation within 1 month	9	
22. Significant metabolic disorder	4		23. Needs support to maintain airway, but survives >2 hrs without	5	
<b>GI/Feeding</b>			24. Cannot mait airway w/o cont. supp	9	
23. Difficult/prolonged oral feeding	2		25. Ventilator	3	
24. Complex Dietary Needs	2		26. -- No resp effort	12	
25. Uncomplicated G tube feeding	1		27. --Vent >12 hrs/d	9	
26. G tube feeding with min. problem	2		28. --Vent <12 hrs/d	6	
27. NG tube feeding	3		29. --Standby only	3	
28. J tube feeding	4		30. Vent unplanned changes >qd	6	
29. Mod-sev problem w/ tube feeding	2		<b>Vascular</b>		
30. Reflux without airway involvment	2		31. Central lines	8	
31. Reflux with airway involvement	3		32. Central line w/TPN	10	
<b>Urinary/Kidney</b>			33. IM/SQ pain control	3	
32. Urinary cath q day or < (not self)	2		34. IV pain control	8	
33. Indwelling cath or cath > q day	3		35. Occ transfusion/IV <q month	2	
34. Peritoneal dialysis	5		36. IV Rx less often than q 4 hr	5	
35. Hemodialysis (in the home)	8		37. IV Rx q 4 hr or more often	6	
36. - More than 1 x per day	4		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			<b>SUBTOTAL</b>		
Comments					
Primary Physician			Date Completed		Total (All Columns)

## INSTRUCTIONS

### General

1. Score only those items that are expected to last for a minimum of six months. Unusual or acute needs should not be scored unless they occur at a regular basis.
2. Score only the care item that is applicable at the greatest or most intense need on a routine basis. For example, if the child needs vital signs taken every hour, score in column 1, line 12 and leave lines 10 and 11 blank.
3. Whenever the word "physician" is used, a nurse practitioner, physician assistant or other physician extender may be used.
4. Score only those items with a current identifiable need, as evidenced by documentation of at least weekly use or intervention, except for ventilators.
5. Score only those interventions that happen routinely in the family home. School-based services are not scorable.
6. If physician's orders are required, they must be current, within the past year.

### Column 1

1. Requires changes or monitoring of equipment, changes of position, suctioning, feeding, or other direct intervention at least once, but no more than twice during the normal 8 hour night.
2. Same as 1, but more than twice per night on the average.
3. Needs procedures by the parent or in-home caregiver and supplies for infection control for a known pathogen for which the child is expected to be infected or a carrier for greater than 3 months (e.g. Hepatitis B, HIV, or resistant Staph. epi)
4. Receives medication under a schedule prescribed by a physician more often than every 2 hours throughout the normal awake 16-hour day.
5. Requires direct visual or manual assessment at least every 15 minutes, throughout the entire 24-hour day with continuously awake supervision.
6. Requires direct visual or manual assessment, because of quickly changing medical status almost continuously, such that the caregiver can only leave the room for 2-3 minute intervals, throughout the entire 24-hour day. Child must be in line of vision at all times except for rare 2 to 3 minute intervals.
7. Has needed nursing interventions that require the skills and training of a licensed nurse for at least 2 hours per week, but not more than 10 hours per week and has a physician order for such.
8. Same as 7, but hours are greater than 10 hours per week, but less than or equal to 10 hours per day.
9. Same as 7, but hours are greater than 10 hours per day.
10. Requires the taking of pulse, respiration, blood pressure, the assessment of orientation, level of consciousness, size of pupils, or auscultation of lungs at least once daily, but less often than every 4 hours. There must be a written nurse or physician order and a written record of the assessments. Do not score the sole use of a monitor here.
11. Same as 10, but frequency is at least every 4 hours, but no more often than every 2 hours.
12. Same as 10, but frequency is more often than every 2 hours.
13. Requires passive or active range of motion at least daily in the family home, which has been trained or supervised by an OT, PT, or nurse.
14. Has a physician order for Occupational Therapy services and the parent or in-home caregiver is implementing a motor program that occurs daily under the supervision/training of the OT, as documented by the OT. The application of splints does not count. School-based services are not scorable.
15. Has a physician order for Physical Therapy services and the parent or in-home caregiver is implementing a motor program that occurs daily under the supervision/training of the PT, as documented by the PT. The application of splints does not count. School-based services are not scorable.
16. Score 2 points for each stoma that requires care, dressing, or cleaning at least weekly.
17. Currently, or in the past 12 months, has had a Stage 2 skin breakdown diagnosed by a nurse, OT, PT, or physician, or has a physician order that the child is at high risk of such skin breakdown.
18. Currently, or in the past 12 months, has had a Stage 3 to 4 skin breakdown diagnosed as in 17.
19. Has insulin-dependent diabetes.
20. Has a physician order for glucose monitoring at least once every other day, but not more than 4 times per day.
21. Same as 20, but frequency is more than 4 times per day.

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Column 1 (continued)

22. Has a metabolic disorder that if untreated could cause death or disability and requires daily laboratory monitoring or weighing and recording of intake and is not diabetes. This is usually a genetic error of metabolism.
23. At least daily, receives oral feeding that takes longer than 30 minutes and requires techniques designed to reduce the risk of aspiration. Or has a feeding program or oral motor stimulus program implemented at least daily by the parent or in-home caregiver under the supervision of a feeding specialist.
24. Has complex dietary needs where a licensed professional has ordered that the total dietary intake must be weighed or otherwise measured, recorded in detail and monitored by a professional.
25. Receives feeding at least once per week via gastrostomy tube with only routine instructions.
26. Same as 25, but instructions must be specialized for this child or requires a pump or there is a history of minimal problems within the past year.
27. Receives feeding at least once per week via nasogastric tube.
28. Receives feeding at least once per week via jejunostomy tube.
29. A licensed professional must evaluate feedings at least weekly because of a moderate to severe problem with a G, J or NG tube. Include children who need complex aspiration procedures (not routine positioning).
30. Has gastro-esophageal reflux diagnosed by a physician and does not require suctioning to prevent aspiration or have a history of aspiration pneumonia with the in past 6 months. Score either 30 or 31, not both.
31. Same as 30, but requires suctioning or has a history of aspiration within the past 6 months.
32. Requires catheterization for urine at least once per day by a caregiver.
33. Has an indwelling urinary catheter or requires catheterization more than once per day by a caregiver.
34. Requires peritoneal dialysis at least once per month. If 6 months of age or less, double the score.
35. Requires hemodialysis in the home.
36. Same as 35, but additional points if occurs more often than once per day.

### Column 2

1. Has a seizure disorder diagnosed by a physician. The seizures occur at least once per week and require no intervention, other than monitoring or other routine first aid measures.
2. Same as 1, but requires changes in the oxygen or has had an episode of status treated by a physician within the past year.
3. Has mild-moderate seizures as defined in 2 and they occur at least once per week and as often as once per day on average.
4. Same as 3, but frequency is more often than once per day, but less than 4 times per day on the average.
5. Same as 4, but frequency is more often than 4 times per day on the average.
6. Same as 2, but seizures require intervention to maintain an adequate airway or application of antiepileptic drugs (other than regular scheduled antiepileptics) at least once per month or has had an episode of status treated by a physician within the past month.
7. Same as 6 and the seizures occur at least once per week, on the average, but less often than 6 times per day. If the severity is moderate to severe and the frequency is less than once per week, but they do occur, on average, at least once per month, score on line 5.
8. Same as 7 and the frequency is greater than 6 times per day.
9. Requires at least daily use of O<sub>2</sub> via cannula, mask, or tent at a rate of 5 liters or less. If requires any pressure or a flow rate more than 5 liters at least daily, score as a ventilator on standby.
10. Requires changes in the oxygen, that are not predictable or planned, at least once per day on average, in response to levels of oxygenation.
11. Has a tracheostomy. Also score Column 1, line 16.
12. Has cyanosis as defined as documented episodes of desaturations down to or below 88% at least 3 times in the past month and has a physician's order for a pulse oximeter. Cannot score both apnea-and-bradycardia monitor and a pulse oximeter (can only score on either line 12 or 14, not both).

## INSTRUCTIONS

### Column 2 (continued)

13. Has CO2 retention significant enough to qualify using Medicaid criteria for a CO2 monitor and has a physician's order for it.
14. Has episodes of apnea and/or bradycardia that are physiologically significant at least once per month and has a physician's order for a monitor. Maximum points on this line are 3. Also only score either line 12 or 14, not both.
15. Requires deep pharyngeal or tracheal suctioning (must be other than oral suctioning) with a physician's order for at least once per day, but no more often than every 4 hours.
16. Same as 15, but frequency is at least every 4 hours but less than every hour.
17. Same as 15, but frequency is at least every hour. Do not score here, unless child also has a tracheostomy
18. Has a physician's order for chest percussion and/or drainage or nebulized treatment for at least once per day or, if received on a prn basis, has received it on average at least four times per week, but more than every 4 hours or requires mist at least daily (mist is not to be scored with a ventilator used daily).
19. Same as 18, but frequency is more than every 4 hours and less than every 2 hours.
20. Same as 18, but frequency is more often than every 2 hours.
21. Has required resuscitation (CPR, must include chest compressions or drug resuscitation) for inadequate ventilation or cardiac output (do not include immediate post birth time) within the past year and the need for the resuscitation is likely to recur (do not include single traumatic event). Score only 21 or 22, not both.
22. Same as 21, but it has occurred within the past month.
23. Requires an appliance or equipment to maintain an adequate airway, but if removed would survive for at least 2 hours before being replaced. Child must have an unstable trach or stint – as evidenced by the child turning blue when the appliance is changed. If trach is used only for access, score under column 2, number 11.
24. Same as 23, but wouldn't survive for 2 hours without. In most instances, the child would have severe tracheal malacia and only the physician would change the appliance.
25. Has a physician's order for a ventilator, CPAP, or BIPAP to be present in the residence. Score also with lines 26-29. Scoring for lines 26, 27, and 28 require a physician's order for volume or positive-pressure ventilation, either by ventilator or BIPAP.
26. Same as 25 and has no effective respiratory effort. Without active ventilation, would not survive 1 hour.
27. Same as 25 and has some effective respiratory effort, but requires active ventilation for greater than 12 hours per day.
28. Same as 27, but requires ventilation for at least 1 hour but less than 12 hours per day.
29. Same as 25, but ventilator is used only for illnesses or other deteriorations. If scored because of CPAP, score on lines 29 and 25. If scored because of high flow O2, score on line 29 only.
30. Requires changes in the ventilation that are not planned at least daily because of levels of oxygenation.
31. Has vascular access to a major vein near the heart or to an artery on an ongoing basis.
32. Same as 31 and receives total parental nutrition through that access.
33. Requires IM or SQ medication for pain control at least 4 times per week, on average.
34. Same as 33, but requires the medication IV.
35. Requires a transfusion or IV medication in the home at least once per month, but less often than once per day.
36. 36. Same as 35, but frequency is at least once per day, but less often than every 4 hours.
37. 37. Same as 35, but frequency is at least often as every 4 hours.