

Policy: Health and Medical Needs of Children in Care

Policy Purpose

To ensure the physical health and psychological wellbeing needs of children in care are assessed, and their needs addressed on an ongoing basis, including planning for their future needs and leaving care arrangements.

Policy Statement

The physical health and psychological wellbeing of children in care will be reviewed and assessed regularly. If treatment is required, appropriate services will be arranged and provided in an expedient manner.

The Case Manager must ensure that the child is enrolled with Medicare and has received all recommended immunisations required to protect them and other children against communicable diseases.

An immediate health assessment must be arranged by the Case Manager if there are any reported or observed health or developmental concerns at the time the child enters care or remains in care.

If there are no immediate health or wellbeing concerns a baseline assessment must occur during the first three months of a child entering care to provide information against which future assessments of the child's progress and development can be measured, and to identify the health and being needs which must be addressed.

Periodic follow-up, review and reassessment of the child throughout their time in care must occur. This is particularly important in times of immediate need. For example young women in care are to be provided with immediate support, counselling and health care if they become pregnant; a child or young person who is terminally ill must receive appropriate palliative and end of life care, and a child with a pre-natal history of maternal alcohol use, or presenting with unexplained development delays, must be screened for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

Children requiring disability services and support who are not a participant in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) must be referred to the National Disability Insurance Agency for an assessment to determine if they meet NDIS access requirements.

The child's care plan must be reviewed immediately if they are diagnosed with a significant medical condition or if there is a significant change in their prognosis. The child's health care needs and the action plan to address these needs must be documented in their My Care Plan.

Refer to [Procedure: Health and Medical Needs of Children in Care](#) for more detailed information.

Legislative Basis

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 s52](#)

Standards

[Standards of Professional Practice](#) 1, 3, 4, 5, 6

Authorised by:

Executive Director, Service Development and Policy on:	16/03/2015	Active from:	16/03/2015
Version 1.0	Ensure the medical and dental health needs of children in care are being met.		

Current Version V 1.2

Approver:	A/Deputy Chief Executive Officer	4/10/2019	Active from:	7/10/2019
Update:	Added "palliative care" to 5 th paragraph under section "Policy Statement" and amended information regarding review of child's My Care Plan. 61:F2019/13468			
Review due:	November 20	Maintenance:	Policy: tf.policy@nt.gov.au	