

Adoptive family—special care need, code N

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Adoptive family—special care need, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Special care need
METEOR identifier:	700982
Registration status:	Children and Families , Superseded 03/11/2021
Definition:	The level of additional resources and/or support services required by the adopted child and/or their adoptive family to foster healthy development and wellbeing, and to support positive family functioning and prevent adoption disruptions, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Adoptive family—special care need
Value Domain:	Special adoptive care need code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	No additional care needs
	2	Minor additional care needs
	3	Moderate to substantive additional care needs
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Special needs in the adoption context is defined as the level of resources or support services required by the adopted child and/or their adoptive family to foster healthy development and wellbeing, and to support positive family functioning and prevent adoption disruption. The 'level of need' can be conceptualised on a continuum from those adoptees and their families who do not require any additional resources or supports beyond what would be expected for a family with an average, non-adopted child of similar age in the general population, to those who require regular and more intensive additional resources and supports.

CODE 1 No additional care needs

Children who regularly require a level of personal, emotional and physical care that is consistent with that which would be expected for their age group. On a day-to-day basis, the resources and supports for the child and their family are essentially the same as would be expected for a family with an average, non-adopted child of similar age in the general population.

CODE 2 Minor additional care needs

Children who generally require a level of personal, emotional and physical care that is consistent with that which would be expected for their age group. On most occasions, the resources and supports for the child and their family are comparable to those expected for a family with an average, non-adopted child of similar age in the general population, but the child's adoption history results in short-term or irregular periods where additional resources and supports are required for the child and/or their family.

CODE 3 Moderate to substantial additional care needs

Children who regularly require a level of personal, emotional and/or physical care that is beyond that which would be expected for their age group. On a regular and frequent basis, the resources and supports for the child and their family are greater than those expected for a family with an average, non-adopted child of similar age in the general population. Areas of additional need may include, but are not limited to:

- Children (on an ongoing basis) requiring abnormal amounts of attention and affection, high levels of routine and structure due to trauma/attachment issues; displaying (on an ongoing basis) aggressive behaviours, enuresis and encopresis; stealing; sleeping difficulties.
- Children (beyond usual age expectations) requiring assistance with dressing, bathing, toileting, feeding, mobility.
- Regular physical therapy.
- Regular medication for a diagnosed condition that requires skill and training to administer, or is needed to allow significantly improved day-to-day functioning.
- Medical need for special dietary restrictions.
- Frequent hospital or specialist appointments, or
- Ongoing high support special education programs.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data element attributes

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Adoptive family—special care need, code N Children and Families](#), Superseded 12/11/2018

Has been superseded by [Adoptive family—special care need, code N Children and Families](#), Superseded 05/06/2023

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Adoptions DSS 2017-18](#)

[Children and Families](#), Superseded 02/12/2019

Implementation start date: 01/07/2017

Implementation end date: 30/06/2018

DSS specific information:

This item is still developmental and not part of the annual collection; definitions and parameters could change and will be discussed by the relevant authorities.

[Adoptions DSS 2018-19](#)

[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2018

Implementation end date: 30/06/2019

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being an 'intercountry - program' adoption.

DSS specific information:

From 2018–19, adoptive family special care needs items are no longer developmental and are part of the annual collection, with definitions and parameters agreed by the relevant authorities.

[Adoptions DSS 2019-20](#)

[Children and Families](#), Superseded 03/11/2021

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

Conditional obligation:

Conditional on adoption type being an 'intercountry - program' adoption.

DSS specific information:

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