

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:	687833
Registration status:	Children and Families , Superseded 12/11/2018
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 additional care needs
	4	Substantial additional care needs
	5	Extensive additional care needs
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Codes to be used after a 12 month assessment. CODE 1 No additional care needs A child who requires a level of personal, emotional and physical care consistent with that which would be expected for their age group. On a day-to-day basis, care is essentially the same as would be expected for the average, non-adopted peer of similar age in the general population. CODE 2 Minor additional care needs A child who requires a level of personal, emotional and physical care consistent with that which would be expected for their age group and experiences. On a day-to-day basis, care is comparable to what would be expected for their, non-adopted peers, but their adoption history may result in some irregular periods of additional care needs. CODE 3 Moderate additional care needs A child who requires a moderate level of personal, emotional and physical care beyond that which would be expected for their age group.
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This additional care, will usually be confined to one specific area of need, such as:

- Child (on an ongoing basis) requiring abnormal amounts of attention and affection, high levels of routine and structure due to trauma/relationship trauma; displaying (on an ongoing basis) aggressive behaviours, enuresis and encopresis; stealing; sleeping difficulties
- Child (beyond usual age expectations) requiring assistance with dressing, bathing, toileting, feeding, mobility
- Regular physical therapy of up to 1 hour per day
- 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.

CODE 4 Substantial additional care needs

A child who requires a considerable level of personal, emotional and physical care beyond that which would be expected for their age group.

This additional care, beyond that required of those with moderate care needs, will usually include a combination of two or more specific areas of need, such as those outlined under moderate additional care needs:

- Child (on an ongoing basis) requiring abnormal amounts of attention and affection, high levels of routine and structure due to trauma/relationship trauma; displaying (on an ongoing basis) aggressive behaviours, enuresis and encopresis; stealing; sleeping difficulties
- Child (beyond usual age expectations) requiring assistance with dressing, bathing, toileting, feeding, mobility.
- Physical therapy of up to 1 hour per day and regular medication requiring skill and training to administer
- Need for special diet, frequent hospital appointments, ongoing special education programmes.

CODE 5 Extensive additional care needs

A child who require a consistently high level of personal, emotional and physical care beyond that which would be expected for their age group.

This additional care beyond that required of those in other categories of level of need will usually include a combination of two or more specific areas of need, such as:

- Extreme attention seeking behaviour; frequent smearing of faeces; extreme hyperactivity requiring constant supervision; frequent aggression; extreme difficulty with schooling
- Child requires physical therapy 1 – 2 hours a day
- Specialist care techniques required (e.g. bathing, administering medication)
- Child unable to walk and/or talk
- Child needs constant attention
- Frequent hospital appointments and/or treatment.

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:**

Has been superseded by [Adoptive family—special care need, code N
Children and Families](#), Superseded 03/11/2021

**Implementation in Data Set
Specifications:**

[Adoptions DSS 2016-17](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 12/11/2018

Implementation start date: 01/07/2016

Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

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.