Caring for Patients with Special Health Care Needs

**Definition**

“Special health care needs include any physical, developmental, mental, sensory, behavioral, cognitive, or emotional impairment or limiting condition that requires medical management, health care intervention, and/or use of specialized services or programs. The condition may be congenital, developmental, or acquired through disease, trauma, or environmental cause and may impose limitations in performing daily self-maintenance activities or substantial limitations in a major life activity.

Health care for individuals with special needs requires specialized knowledge, as well as increased awareness and attention, adaptation, and accommodative measures beyond what are considered routine.” (AAPD, The Ref Manual, 2022-2023/p.18)

**CRITERIA:** Students will provide oral health care services for people age 15 years old and older presenting:

- Physical Disabilities
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Developmental Disabilities
- Behavioral Conditions: ADHD, ADD, Autism Spectrum disorders
- Cognitive Limitations
- Patients with Minimal Ability to cooperate.
- Dementia
- Alzheimer
- Parkinson Disease
- Other