

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

DEFINITION of 'Medically Frail': includes individuals with disabling mental disorders (including adults with serious mental illness), individuals with chronic substance use disorders, individuals with serious and complex medical conditions, individuals with a physical, intellectual or developmental disability that significantly impairs their functioning, or individuals with a disability determination based on Social Security criteria.

Pennsylvania has outlined the criteria for who is medically frail or otherwise has special medical needs, as set forth below:

Category	Definition
Individuals with a Disabling Mental Disorder	<p>The individual has a diagnosis of at least one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • psychotic disorder; • schizophrenia; • schizoaffective disorder; • major depression; • bipolar disorder; • delusional disorder • anxiety disorder (obsessive compulsive disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, or severe panic disorder)
Individuals with chronic substance use disorder	<p>The individual has a chronic substance use disorder:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual has a diagnosis of substance use disorder.
Individuals with serious and complex medical conditions	<p>The individual meets one of the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receiving chemotherapy or radiation therapy for cancer OR • Enrolled in hospice OR • A resident of LTC facility or public/private ICF OR • Has any of the following medical conditions- hemophilia, Gaucher's disease, immune deficiency, HIV, sickle cell, cystic fibrosis or post-transplant of lung, heart, liver, pancreas, or small bowel; OR • Is ventilator dependent OR • Has 2 or more inpatient admissions within 12 months AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ has 3 or more ED visits in 6 months AND ○ has 4 or more prescription medications per month.
Individuals with a physical disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual has a permanent physical disability that significantly impairs their functioning. <p>Examples of physical disabilities include but are not limited to: multiple sclerosis, quadriplegia, and paraplegia.</p>

Category	Definition
Individuals with an intellectual or developmental disability	<p>The individual has an intellectual or developmental disability and therefore exhibits:</p> <p>Intellectual Disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significantly subnormal general intellectual functioning based on standardized testing (IQ). • Significantly subnormal adaptive functioning based on standardized testing. • Occurred in the developmental period before the 22nd birthday. <p>Developmental Disability:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autism spectrum disorder: The individual is diagnosed with autism and meets the ICF/ORC level of care which is an institutional level of care. The ICF level of care requires functional deficits in addition to the diagnosis. <p>(Developmental disabilities include but are not limited to: autism, epilepsy, cerebral palsy, and mental retardation.)</p>
Individuals with a disability determination	Any individual with a current disability designation by the Social Security Administration