



Functional Needs

Aliases

Developmental delay
Impaired
Special needs

Disabled
Mental Illness

Handicapped
Intellectual Disability

Patient Care Goals

To meet and maintain the additional support required for patients with functional needs during the delivery of prehospital care

Patient Presentation

Inclusion Criteria

Patients who are identified by the World Health Organization's International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health that have experienced a decrement in health resulting in some degree of disability. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, this includes, but is not limited to, individuals with physical, sensory, mental health, and cognitive and/or intellectual disabilities affecting their ability to function independently without assistance

Exclusion Criteria

None noted

Patient Management

Assessment

1. Identify the functional need by means of information from the patient, the patient's family, bystanders, medic alert bracelets or documents, or the patient's adjunct assistance devices
2. The physical examination should not be intentionally abbreviated, although the way the exam is performed may need to be modified to accommodate the specific needs of the patient

Treatment and Interventions

Medical care should not intentionally be reduced or abbreviated during the triage, treatment, and transport of patients with functional needs, although the way the care is provided may need to be modified to accommodate the specific needs of the patient

Patient Safety Considerations

For patients with communication barriers (language or sensory), it may be desirable to obtain secondary confirmation of pertinent data (e.g., allergies) from the patient's family, interpreters, or written or electronic medical records. The family members can be an excellent source of information and the presence of a family member can have a calming influence on some of these patients