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## Medical Special Needs Video Series

This video series provides basic yet important information about specific medical, developmental, sensory, and other conditions that prospective adoptive parents, adoptive parents, and adoption professionals may need to be aware of.

### Medical Special Needs: Autism

In this webinar, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic shares an overview of autism, including what it is, how it is diagnosed, and how it may affect a child's development and daily life. This training explores these topics through the lens of adoption considerations, including the challenges of differentiating between common traits associated with autism and traits that are often seen in children with developmental delays due to other medical conditions, early institutionalization, and/or childhood trauma. Length: 16 minutes

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### Medical Special Needs: Blood Conditions

In this webinar, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic shares an overview of two common blood conditions that prospective adoptive parents may need to know about when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. Dr. Chambers addresses thalassemia and hemophilia, explaining key aspects of and common treatments for these conditions and other considerations for prospective adoptive families. Length: 15 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Cerebral Palsy

In this session, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic explains the basics of cerebral palsy (CP) for prospective adoptive parents who are considering adoption referrals and potential matches. Topics include causes and types of CP, clinical features and diagnosis, management and treatment, and prognosis and quality of life for children and adults with cerebral palsy. Length: 20 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Chromosome Disorders and Syndromes

In this webinar, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic provides an overview of chromosome disorders for prospective adoptive parents. Dr. Chambers outlines the common signs that may raise concern for a genetic syndrome in a child's referral, the types of genetic testing available, and what those results might (or might not) reveal. She also discusses how families can prepare to support a child with potential or confirmed genetic conditions. Length: 14 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Congenital Heart Conditions

In this webinar, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic provides a clear and compassionate overview of congenital heart conditions that prospective adoptive parents may need to know about when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. This training breaks down complex medical terminology around congenital heart defects and outlines what families can expect in terms of treatment and long-term care. Length: 18 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Craniofacial Conditions

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers from The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic offers an introduction to craniofacial conditions that prospective adoptive parents may need to know about when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. Focusing on cleft lip and palate and microtia, Dr. Chambers explains the medical, developmental, and surgical aspects of these conditions, along with what families can realistically expect. Length: 15 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Hearing Disabilities

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic provides an overview of hearing disabilities in the context of adoption. Prospective adoptive parents will gain valuable insights into the types and causes of hearing loss and understanding treatment options. The session also explores the impact of hearing loss on language development and the importance of early intervention. Length: 19 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic provides an overview of Hypoxic Ischemic Encephalopathy (HIE), a type of brain injury caused by lack of oxygen and blood flow around the time of birth. Designed for prospective adoptive parents, this session explains what HIE is and the wide range of possible outcomes, as well as available interventions post-adoption for children diagnosed with HIE. Length: 9 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Infectious Diseases

In this session, Dr. Jennifer Chambers from The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic offers a practical overview of common infectious diseases that prospective adoptive parents may need to know about when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. Dr. Chambers covers HIV, Hepatitis B and C, and congenital syphilis. Designed for prospective adoptive parents, this training addresses current treatment options, transmission risks, long-term health outlooks, and considerations around stigma and confidentiality. Length: 16 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Microcephaly

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic provides an overview of microcephaly for prospective adoptive parents. Dr. Chambers explains how microcephaly is diagnosed, causes, and the many potential outcomes of this diagnosis. This webinar equips prospective adoptive parents to ask informed questions and understand what support might be needed post-adoption. Length: 14 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome (NOWS)

This recorded training features Drs. Lori Devlin and Elaine Schulte, in conversation with NCFA's Ryan Hanlon, about Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Syndrome, or NOWS, in the context of adoption. Dr. Devlin and Dr. Schulte share the symptoms, treatment, and what we know about potential outcomes of infants with NOWS, as well as considerations for prospective adoptive parents. Length: 30 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Orthopedic Conditions

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic offers an overview of common orthopedic conditions that prospective adoptive parents may need to know about when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. Topics include clubfoot, amniotic band syndrome, and polydactyly (extra digits). Dr. Chambers explains causes, treatment options, long-term outcomes, and practical considerations such as the timing of interventions, use of prosthetics, and therapy needs. Length: 16 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Premature Birth

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers from The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic discusses the basics of premature birth to help inform prospective adoptive parents considering adoption referrals and potential matches. Dr. Chambers covers risk factors and causes of premature birth, potential health complications in infants born pre-term, treatment of the baby post-birth, and common birth weights and prognoses by gestational age. Length: 16 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Pre-Term Brain Injuries (IVH and PVL)

In this session, Dr. Jennifer Chambers from The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic explains two common preterm brain injuries—Intraventricular Hemorrhage (IVH) and Periventricular Leukomalacia (PVL)—that prospective adoptive families may encounter. This training discusses these diagnoses, how they are detected, the range of possible developmental outcomes, and practical insights about what to expect after adoption. Length: 11 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Seizures

In this session, Dr. Jennifer Chambers from The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic helps prospective adoptive parents understand what it means when a child has a history of seizures in their adoption referral file. Covering types of seizures, possible causes, red flags to watch for, and typical treatments, Dr. Chambers offers explanations and practical guidance on what to expect, questions to ask, and how to prepare to navigate this medical need. Length: 12 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Spina Bifida

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers from The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic shares key information about spina bifida that prospective adoptive parents may need to know when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. Topics include types of spina bifida, causes and risk factors, diagnosis, challenges and health issues, and important considerations for treatment and care of a child with spina bifida. Length: 16 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Urogenital Conditions

In this training, Dr. Jennifer Chambers from The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic offers an overview of several urogenital medical conditions that prospective adoptive parents may need information on when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. This session focuses on hypospadias, ambiguous genitalia, and kidney disease, outlining typical causes, treatment options, and what to expect in terms of long-term prognosis, care, and emotional and social aspects of these conditions. Length: 20 minutes

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## Medical Special Needs: Visual Impairments

In this webinar, Dr. Jennifer Chambers of The Adoption and Foster Care Clinic provides an overview of visual impairments that prospective adoptive parents may need to know about when considering adoption referrals and potential matches. From conditions like strabismus and nystagmus to congenital blindness and missing eyes, Dr. Chambers explains causes, treatments, and developmental implications. Length: 21 minutes

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