Ch 17 MFR: Special Populations:

Patients with Disabilities:

 Deafness or hearing impairment

 Blindness or visual impairment

 Impaired mobility-paralysis or other muscular disorders

Atrophy: waisting away

Quadriplegic- 4 limbs can’t move

Ostomy: surgical opening and bag attached

Muscular dystrophy: degenerative illness, nervous system defects

Cerebral Palsy: motor function disorder

Special Considerations when dealing with patients with disabilities:

 “ a person with a disability VS disabled person”

 Focus on their abilities not disabilities

 Develop creative means of communication

 Use the caregiver as a resource

 Treat patient with respect

Critically ill and injured patients:

 Anxious, confused, confused, helpless

 Lights and sirens may scare them

 Explain to them what is going on. Don’t be negative

 “ I am here to help you” “I am going to do everything I can”

 Don’t say everything will be okay.

Chronically ill Patients:

 Chronic- present for a long time

 Acute- sudden onset

 Hospice: 6 months or less to live

 Remember the 6 stages of death and dying.

Geriatric Patients

 Age 65 or older

 Changes:

 Respiratory system

 Cardiovascular system

 Nervous system

 Sensory system

 Musculoskeletal system

 Digestive system

 Urinary system

 Skin

 Risk of illness or injury:

 Being over 75 yrs of age

 Living alone

 Experiencing the death of a signif other

 Having been recently hospital

 Being unable to hold urine or feces

 Being immobile

 Dementia

Mechanism of Injury:

 Falls:, Vehicular trauma, pedestrian fatalities

Assessment with elderly:

 Consider: heart provides poor circulation, auditory and visual loss,

reduced red blood cells-anemia, respiratory insufficiency

dentures, or preexisting diseases

Abuse: physical, psychological, and financial

 Over age 65

 Female over 75

 Being frail with multiple chronic medical conditions

 Dementia

 Impaired sleep cycle

 Incontinent

 Being dependent on others for daily activities