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