

Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

What is the CANS assessment?

The child welfare version of the Texas Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) 2.0 assessment is a multi-purpose tool that facilitates the linkage between the assessment process and the development of individualized service plans, quality improvement initiatives and monitoring outcomes of services. The assessments are scored with a rating system from 0-3 to suggest the severity of a child's need or presence of a strength. The child welfare version of the CANS assessment is designed to be used as either a prospective assessment tool or as a retrospective quality improvement tool. It can also be used as a communication tool that provides a uniform language for all youth-serving entities to discuss a youth's needs and strengths.

Is this the same assessment conducted by Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHA)?

No, this is different from the CANS assessment currently provided by LMHA.

Who can provide this assessment?

The initial assessment and annual update is to be completed by a mental health licensed professional, who is a certified CANS assessor and contracted with Superior HealthPlan for STAR Health (foster care members).

Who needs a CANS assessment?

All STAR Health members, 3-18 years of age, upon entering the care of DFPS will need a CANS assessment, per state requirements.

What if the member re-enters the care of DFPS?

Each time a member enters/re-enters into foster care, a provider has thirty (30) days to complete a CANS assessment without prior authorization. The member is also eligible for an annual CANS update. A provider must seek prior authorization to secure reimbursement for a CANS assessment completed more than thirty (30) days after a child enters foster care, and for any updates requested to the initial CANS assessment, except for the annual update. The thirty (30) days in foster care will be calculated based on the STAR Health eligibility date.

Can an assessment be billed while the member is inpatient?

Yes, the CANS assessment may be billed while a child is inpatient, if the facility has someone on staff who is certified to administer the assessment or is willing to allow a provider onsite to administer the assessment.

Where will I enter the results of the CANS assessment?

The CANS assessment will be completed via eCANS, an online tool. STAR Health providers who are certified to administer the CANS will be granted access to this tool. eCANS will feed the assessment to Health Passport, where it can be accessed for future review.

How do I know if a CANS assessment has previously been conducted?

The provider can verify, via Health Passport, if a CANS assessment has previously been completed. Providers can choose to conduct updates to the CANS assessment outside of the initial and annual CANS assessment, but updates are non-reimbursable. If there is a clinical need for a new assessment to be completed when a child has not had a lapse in eligibility, the provider will need to request an authorization to conduct a new CANS assessment.

When will the need for CANS assessments go into effect?

This new requirement goes into effect for children entering foster care on or after September 1, 2016.

How can I become CANS certified?

A provider can access the CANS training at www.canstraining.com. The Texas CANS Comprehensive 2.0 (Child Welfare) is the appropriate version to complete your required certification. The training cost is \$12. Discount coupon codes can be requested for groups of 5 or more at lschmidt@chapinhall.org.

Where should I submit my certification?

In order to administer the CANS assessment on September 1, 2016, certificates must be submitted to CBHNetworkDev@cenpatico.com by August 1, 2016. Please include:

- Texas Comprehensive Certification (or CANS 2.0 once it is available)
- National Provider Identifier (NPI) on the certification

Will training be provided on billing requirements?

Yes, training will be provided to STAR Health providers prior to September 1, 2016. A bulletin will be posted on the Cenpatico website to indicate how to obtain the online training.

Will there be any changes for the members currently serviced in the Harris County area through the Title IVE waiver or children receiving the CANS in the Foster Care redesign area 3B?

These members will continue to follow the established protocol in their respective areas.

Where is my certification listed?

Certified providers will be identified in the [STAR Health Provider directory](#).

How often do I have to update my certification?

Providers must update certification on an annual basis. Submit updated certifications to CBHNetworkDev@cenpatico.com.

If I decide not to become a certified CANS assessor, will it impact the rest of my STAR Health contract?

No, you can provide services according to your contract. This certification is optional for STAR Health providers, but is necessary to provide the initial CANS assessment to STAR Health members and be able to bill for the service.

For any additional questions, please contact Customer Service at 866-218-8263 or via email CBHNetworkDev@cenpatico.com