

CANS GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Actionable Items	Any needs item with a CANS rating of 2 or 3 that suggests an area that must be addressed in the child and family's care plan.
CANS	Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths: The CANS is a tool that organizes clinical information obtained during behavioral health assessments in a consistent manner to improve communication among those involved in care planning for a child or youth.
CANS User Guide	The CANS User Guide was developed with the Certified Assessor in mind, for ongoing use in clinical practice. The CANS User Guide contains useful information for rating each item in the CANS. Each item contains the item definition and the definition for each rating, as well as supplemental questions that may be relevant to clinical practice. Overall, the CANS User Guide is intended is to provide clinicians with additional guidance to rate items across multiple domains, in a single document.
CANS Users	<p>The following Hub services require their providers to use CANS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outpatient Therapy (diagnostic evaluations, individual, family, and group) • In-Home Therapy Services • Intensive Care Coordination <p>The CANS must also be completed as part of a discharge-planning process in the following 24-hour level of care services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychiatric inpatient hospitalizations at acute inpatient hospitals • Psychiatric inpatient hospitals and chronic and rehabilitation inpatient hospitals • Community-Based Acute Treatment (CBAT) • Intensive Community-Based Acute Treatment (ICBAT) • Transitional Care Units (TCU) <p>Additionally, the following state agencies have adopted the MassHealth version of CANS for use within their programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Department of Mental Health (DMH) • Department of Children and Families (DCF) • Department of Youth Services (DYS)

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Case Conceptualization	A clinician’s and family’s attempt to understand what is happening, why it is happening, and what might be done to better the life of the child and family.
CBHI	The Children's Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI) is an interagency effort of the Commonwealth's Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). CBHI offers an array of behavioral services to children and youth and their families who have MassHealth as their primary insurance.
Certified Assessor	A direct service provider who is certified to use CANS.
Child Requiring Assistance (CRA)	<p>A Child Requiring Assistance in Massachusetts is defined as a child between the ages of 6 and 18 who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeatedly runs away from the home of a parent or legal guardian; • Repeatedly fails to obey the lawful and reasonable commands of a parent or legal guardian, thereby interfering with the parent's or legal guardian's ability to adequately care for and protect the child; • Repeatedly fails to obey lawful and reasonable school regulations; or • Is “habitually truant.” A school-aged child is “habitually truant” when not otherwise excused from attendance in accordance with lawful and reasonable school regulations, willfully fails to attend school for more than 8 school days in a quarter. <p>The goals of the CRA provisions are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide services before court involvement • When court involvement is indicated, limit the time of that involvement • Keep children with their families and in their communities • Put more focus on the family and not just the child
Data Entry Operator (DEO)	Non-direct service staff who enter CANS data on behalf of the Certified Assessors within the same provider organization.

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Domain	<p>Major areas of the child and family's functioning, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life Domain • Child/Adolescent Behavioral/Emotional Needs • Child/Adolescent Risk Behaviors • Cultural Considerations • Transition to Adulthood • Child/Adolescent Strengths • Caregiver Resources and Needs
Family Partners	See: Family Support and Training
Family Support and Training (FST)	<p>Family Support and Training is a Hub-dependent service that helps families and their children reach their treatment goals through peer-to-peer support. Also known as Family Partners, the providers of this service are parents or caregivers of children with special needs who have “been there.”</p>
Family Voice & Choice	<p>Family and youth/child perspectives are intentionally elicited and prioritized during all phases of the planning process. Planning is grounded in family members’ perspectives, and the provider strives to provide options and choices such that the plan reflects family values and preferences.</p>
Hub-Dependent Service	<p>Hub-dependent services address goals set in a treatment plan developed through a clinical Hub provider (Outpatient Therapy, In-Home Therapy, or ICC). In order to access these services, a child must first be enrolled in a Hub service.</p> <p>Hub-dependent services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS) • Therapeutic Mentoring (TM) • Family Partners

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Hub Service	<p>To help families get the right level of service and better-coordinated care for their children, MassHealth behavioral health services are organized around three clinical “Hub” services.</p> <p>Hub services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive Care Coordination (ICC), also known as Community Service Agency (CSA) • In-Home Therapy (IHT) • Outpatient Therapy • Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI) •
In-Home Behavioral Services (IHBS)	<p>In-Home Behavioral Services is a Hub-dependent service that offers support to a child or youth who has challenging behaviors that interfere with everyday life.</p> <p>A clinician and a trained paraprofessional work closely with the child and family to create and implement treatment plans that replace specific, problematic behaviors with more positive, pro-social behaviors.</p>
In-Home Therapy (IHT)	<p>In-Home Therapy is a Hub service. IHT is a flexible service that allows providers to deliver intensive family therapy, care coordination, and practical assistance to the child or youth in the home, school, or other community settings.</p>
Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)	<p>ICC is a Hub service. ICC is an intensive, individualized care planning and management process for children and youth with serious emotional disturbance.</p>
Item	<p>Specific areas of child/adolescent and family/caregiver strengths and needs within each Domain to be assessed.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;">Managed Care Entity (MCE)</p>	<p>Managed Care Entities (MCEs) are responsible for managing Medicaid-funded medical and behavioral health services for the State of Massachusetts. CBHI services are monitored and paid for by one of the following MCEs*:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beacon Health Strategies • BMC HealthNet Plan • Fallon Community Health Plan • Neighborhood Health Plan • Network Health • Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership • Health New England <p>*This list is subject to change.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Mobile Crisis Intervention (MCI)</p>	<p>Mobile Crisis Intervention is a Hub service. MCI is a 24-hour service that provides an emergency response to child crises. A team will meet with the child and family at their home or other locations in the community.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Natural Supports</p>	<p>Family members, friends, and others, not including formal service providers, who are in a position to offer support and assistance to the child/adolescent and family.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Outpatient Therapy</p>	<p>Outpatient Therapy is a Hub service that provides therapeutic intervention to children and youth in need of mental health resources, and may include individual, family, and group therapies.</p>

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Ratings	<p>CANS items are scored using a rating scale.</p> <p>For rating needs, the scale is as follows:</p> <p>0 - Indicates a dimension where there is no evidence of any needs.</p> <p>1 - Indicates a dimension that requires monitoring, watchful waiting, or preventive activities.</p> <p>2 - Indicates a dimension that requires action to ensure that this identified need or risk behavior is addressed.</p> <p>3 - Indicates a dimension that requires immediate or intensive action.</p> <p>For items measuring strengths, the following ratings are used:</p> <p>0 - Indicates a domain where strengths exist that can be used as a centerpiece for a strength-based plan.</p> <p>1 - Indicates a domain where strengths exist but require some strength-building efforts in order for them to serve as a focus of a strength-based plan.</p> <p>2 - Indicates a domain where strengths have been identified but they require significant strength-building efforts before they can be utilized as a focus of a strength-based plan.</p> <p>3 - Indicates a domain in which efforts are needed in order to identify potential strengths for strength-building efforts.</p>
Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED)	<p>Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) is a term that encompasses one or more mental illnesses or conditions. Whether a child/adolescent has a SED can be determined by applying Part I and/or Part II of the CANS assessment form. Identifying a child as having SED is one step in the determination of medical necessity for Intensive Care Coordination and other CBHI or non-CBHI services. In addition, MassHealth tracks SED determinations to guide service system improvements for children and families.</p>
Therapeutic Mentoring (TM)	<p>Therapeutic mentoring is Hub-dependent service. TM is a support service that pairs a child or youth with an adult mentor with the purpose of building and enhancing the child’s social, communication, and life skills.</p>

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Virtual Gateway	The Virtual Gateway is an internet portal designed by the Mass. Executive Office of Health and Human Services to provide the general public, medical providers, community-based organizations and EOHHS staff with online access to health and human services programs and information.
Virtual Gateway (VG) Administrator	The Virtual Gateway (VG) Administrator is a designated person or persons within an agency or organization who is responsible for managing the organization's Virtual Gateway. This includes registering agency direct service and management staff on the CANS Virtual Gateway and obtaining temporary user names and password for those individuals.
Watchful Waiting	Watchful waiting is used as in medicine to indicate the passing of time until needs are evident and/or intervention is implemented. During that time, the need may be explicitly monitored. Watchful waiting is particularly relevant before intervention. When an intervention has been removed, watchful waiting refers to the passage of time and continuation of monitoring before another intervention is implemented or none needed.