



MassHealth
All Provider Bulletin 381
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TO: All Providers Participating in MassHealth

FROM: Mike Levine, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

RE: **Updates to Certain Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Assessment Requirements**

Introduction

The Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) is updating certain provider requirements for the administration of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Assessment to fee-for-service members under the age of 21.

The updates in this bulletin apply to the following MassHealth providers:

- Community Behavioral Health Centers
- Licensed Independent Social Workers
- Mental Health Centers
- Acute Outpatient Hospitals
- Physicians
- Psychiatric Outpatient Hospitals
- Psychologists

Regulations Governing the Timing of CANS Assessments

The regulations listed below require the CANS Assessment to be conducted and completed during the initial behavioral health assessment, before the initiation of therapy. In addition, a CANS-certified clinician or provider is required to update the assessment at least every 90 days, or more often as clinically indicated:

- Community Behavioral Health Centers Services at 130 CMR 448.406(A)(2)(c), 448.418(C)(7) and 448.419(B)(3)(t)
- Licensed Independent Social Worker Services at 130 CMR 462.410(A)(18)
- Mental Health Center Services at 130 CMR 429.421(A)(1)(d) and 429.435(C)(7)
- Outpatient Hospital Services at 130 CMR 410.476(A), 410.477(C)(7), and 410.478(B)(17)
- Psychologist Services at 130 CMR 411.413(A)(5)(p)
- Physician Services at 130 CMR 433.409(D)(1)(i) and 433.429(Q)
- Psychiatric Outpatient Hospital Services at 130 CMR 434.410(D)(15), 434.427(A) and 428(C)(7), 434.429(B)(17)

Change in Re-Assessment Period from 90 to 180 Days

Notwithstanding the above requirements, a CANS-certified clinician or provider will now be required to update the assessment at least every 180 days after the initial assessment, or more often as clinically appropriate. This includes any significant changes in the youth's life.

For each CANS Assessment, each administering provider or clinician must report data collected during the assessment to EOHHS, in the manner and format specified by EOHHS.

EOHHS anticipates updating regulations to reflect these new requirements during future revisions.

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