

Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths

MassHealth requires CANS assessments for members under age 21



Assessment Reminder

This alert serves as a reminder that all network (contracted) providers/clinicians are required to complete the Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) behavioral health assessment for MassHealth members under the age of 21 before providing any of the following services:

- Psychiatric inpatient hospitalization
- Community-Based Acute Treatment (CBAT)
- Psychiatric inpatient hospitalization
- Intensive Care Coordination (ICC)
- In Home Therapy (IHT)
- Outpatient Therapy (diagnostic evaluations, individual, family, and group therapy)



Training and Certification Required

In order to administer the CANS assessment, providers/clinicians are required to complete the CANS training and certification if:

- They are enrolled as a network provider with Optum Behavioral Health or another of MassHealth's contracted managed care entities, and
- Serve children and youth under the age of 21.

Complete the CANS Training

Begin by setting up an account: [CANS - Mass Health Training Initiative - Login Page](#)

Once you have completed registration and successfully logged in to the site, you will be able to access the Massachusetts CANS online training, certification exam and additional CANS-related information and support.



Other Resources

Please access the below Massachusetts websites for more information.

- [Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths \(CANS\) | Mass.gov](#)
- [Frequently Asked Question – Requirements and Billing](#)
- [CANS Clinical Guidance](#)
- [CANS Forms](#)



Questions?

For Optum Behavioral Health provider-related inquiries, please contact Provider Services at 1-877-614-0484, 8am – 8pm, Monday through Friday.