

Provider Alert

Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) behavioral health assessment requirement June 2021

This alert serves as a reminder of the Child & Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) behavioral health assessment requirement for providers of the following services for MassHealth members under the age of 21:

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

In order to administer the CANS assessment, clinicians are required to complete the CANS training and certification if they are enrolled as a network provider in one of MassHealth's contracted managed care entities and serve children and youth under the age of 21. Please access the below websites for more information regarding the CANS certification, requirements, and billing.

<https://www.mass.gov/child-and-adolescent-needs-and-strengths-cans>

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/questions-about-requirements-and-billing/download>

For Optum provider-related inquiries please contact
Provider Services at (877) 614-0484