

Texas Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Comprehensive 2.0 (Child Welfare) Assessment Frequently Asked Questions



What is the CANS assessment?

The Texas Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) Comprehensive 2.0 (child welfare) assessment is a multi-purpose tool developed for children's services under the Department of Family & Protective Services (DFPS). The CANS uses four scoring levels to suggest different pathways for service planning. It was developed with the primary objectives of permanency, safety and improved quality of life for youth in foster care. It also provides foster care youth for a structured assessment along a set of dimensions relevant to recovery planning.

The CANS assessment is designed to use as either a prospective assessment tool for decision support and recovery planning, or as a retrospective quality improvement tool demonstrating an individual youth's progress. 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.

Who needs a CANS assessment?

Upon entering the care of DFPS, all STAR Health Members, 3-17, will need a CANS assessment, per state requirements. These members will need an initial assessment within the first 30 days of care and an annual assessment thereafter. Each time a member enters/re-enters into foster care, a provider has 30 days to complete a CANS assessment without prior authorization. A provider must seek prior authorization to secure reimbursement for an initial CANS assessment completed more than 30 days after a child enters foster care. Provider must also obtain authorization for any updates requested to the initial CANS assessment if the annual assessment is not due. The 30 days in foster care will be calculated based on the STAR Health eligibility date.

Who can provide this assessment?

The initial assessment is to be completed by a licensed clinician contracted with Superior HealthPlan for STAR Health (foster care members) and is certified to administer the tool. The only exception to this are STAR Health members from the foster care redesign area known as Our Community Our Kids (OCOK) Region 3B.

How can I become CANS-certified?

A provider can access the CANS training at www.tcomtraining.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 five or more by emailing, Lauren Schmidt, Distance Learning Operations Lead, Chapin Hall at lschmidt@chapinhall.org.

Where should I submit my certification?

CANS certificates must be submitted to txcans@centene.com. Please include your NPI on the certificate or in the email.

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

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

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 portal that STAR Health providers can access one time, per assessment. eCANS will also feed the assessment to Health Passport, where it can be accessed for future review. Providers can access Health Passport by logging into Superior's [Secure Provider Portal](#).

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

Providers can verify if a CANS assessment has been previously conducted, by using Health Passport within the [Secure Provider Portal](#). Providers can choose to conduct re-assessments before the annual re-assessment is due 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.

Where do I get more information on how this process will work?

For more information, providers can register for a CANS orientation at www.envolveu.com.

Will there be any changes for members currently serviced in the Foster Care redesign area 3B?

No, STAR Health members currently serviced in this area will continue to follow the established protocol.

Where is my certification listed?

Certified providers will be identified in Superior's printed [STAR Health Provider Directory](#), online [Find a Doctor](#) tool and [Foster Care website](#).

How often do I have to update my certification?

Providers must update certification on an annual basis and submit updated certifications to txcans@centene.com.

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

No, providers may offer services according to their contract. CANS certification is optional for STAR Health providers, but is necessary to provide the initial or annual CANS assessment to STAR Health members and bill for this service.

For any additional questions, please contact your Account Manager or Members Services at 1-866-912-6283.