



CANVaS Algorithm Pilot Implementation Update and Questions and Answers (Q & A)

On July 1, 2011, a pilot "algorithm" or decision support model was added to CANVaS, the online CANS assessment for children and youth served by the Comprehensive Services Act. The following clarifications, revisions and updates are provided in a "question and answer" format for your information following the first few weeks of implementation.

Numbering of Ratings-IMPORTANT-PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A CHANGE!

Question:

Why is the numbering of the rating answers to the three new questions in the "General Questions" section of the CANS in CANVaS different from that of the answers to the placement questions in the same section? Can they be made consistent?

Answer:

For the placement questions in the "General Questions" section of CANVaS (foster home, group home, RTC or Family/Relation home), the rating of "0" means "no" for the answer and the rating of "1" means "yes" for the answer. Unfortunately, the answers to the three new questions included with the algorithm roll-out July 1 were rated differently.

To be consistent with the placement questions, the numbering of the ratings on the answers to the new questions will be revised in CANVaS as of July 25th. Instead of "1", "2", "3", the new numbering of the ratings will be "0", "1", "2". So, for the first new question (Community-based Services), the answer ratings will be:

"0" Child has not received community-based services.

"1" Child has received community-based services and the services were successful.

"2" Child has received community-based services and the services were not successful.

For the second new question regarding Child Removal the answer ratings will be:

"0" No, a decision has not been made.

"1" Yes, a decision has been made.

For the third new question regarding the Child's Age the answer ratings will be:

"0" The child is age 5-13.

"1" The child is age 14-17.

"2" The child is 18 or older.

Definitions



Question:

What is the definition of "intensive community-based services" found in the recommendation?

Answer:

Dr. Lyons (creator of the CANS) defines "intensive community-based services" as "any service(s) beyond standard outpatient care."



Question:

What is the definition of a "therapeutic environment" found in the recommendation?"

Answer:

Generally speaking, a "therapeutic environment" includes those for whom the caregiver is specially trained. For our purposes in Virginia for CANVaS, a "therapeutic environment" includes:

- therapeutic or treatment foster care (TFC)
- specialized (public agency TFC) foster care
- residential placements
- special education private day school
- mental health day treatment

There may be other "therapeutic environments" identified in the future.



Question:

How is "child removal" defined? How do we answer this question if the child has been in foster care for a long time?

Answer:

This question asks if a decision has been made by either the local Department of Social Services or the local Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court to remove a child from his or her home, or if the child has already been removed. This question does not refer to children who are placed out of the home by parents solely for treatment purposes, such as through a CSA parental agreement, but refers to whether or not a local DSS agency or the Court determines that removal is warranted.

If a decision has been made or removal has occurred during the assessment period, answer "1" or "yes". If the child was removed prior to the assessment period, and remains in foster care, also answer the question "1" (yes). If the child is presently at home and there are no plans to remove the child from his/her home, answer "no" (0).

Revision to Paper CANS



Question:

Where are the three new "General Questions" (about community-based services, child removal and child's age) on the paper CANS Comprehensive and Reassessment for ages 5+?

Answer:

The paper CANS score sheet (5+) has been revised to add a section for the three new questions to be rated. The Section is found at the end of the assessment form and is entitled "General Questions Algorithm-7/11." The Section has been added to both the Comprehensive and Reassessment versions of the CANS 5+. The revised Comprehensive and Assessment score sheets may be found on the CSA website at

http://www.csa.virginia.gov/html/CANS/cans_documents.cfm

Note: All CANS for children and youth ages five or older receiving CSA-funded services should be completed using CANVaS. (COV §2.2-5210) It is a duplication of work for a case manager to complete the paper CANS and have to enter it into CANVaS. The system was designed for the assessment to be completed on-line.

Birth to Four Version of CANS



Question:

Is there an algorithm for the CANS Birth to Four version?
Where do I find the Birth to Four Comprehensive and Reassessment versions of the CANS?

Answer:

The Birth to Four Comprehensive and Reassessment versions of the CANS are not in CANVaS and must be done using the paper version, found on the CSA website at

http://www.csa.virginia.gov/html/CANS/cans_documents.cfm The algorithm does not apply to the Birth to Four CANS.

FAPT Feedback Forms



Question:

When should we submit our FAPT feedback forms?

Answer:

Thanks to those of you who have already submitted feedback! Your input as a FAPT is very important to ensure that the algorithm is correctly used for children and youth served by CSA in Virginia. You may send the forms on any time frame that is convenient. However, please send the forms to OCS at least by the end of each month through the pilot period. The purpose of the feedback form is to determine if the system recommendation or lack of recommendation seems appropriate for the child in question. The algorithm may need to be adjusted to better serve children and youth served by CSA.