

August 9, 2019

RE: Magellan Healthcare CANS Developmental Needs Module Implementation

Dear BHRS Provider,

Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc. has updated the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths – Core (CANS) tool to include a Developmental Needs Module effective September 1, 2019.

The expectation is that all eligible members receiving BHRS have a CANS Core assessment completed within 30 days of the initiation of BHRS services, prior to each BHRS re-evaluation, and at BHRS discharge. The CANS Core has been expanded to now include youth with autism and over 3 years of age. This change is effective September 1, 2019.

The CANS is a multi-purpose tool developed for children's services to support decision making, including level of care and service planning, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services. Versions of the CANS currently are used in every state in child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, and early intervention applications.

Reporting is available to providers at two levels – individual member reports and provider reports. Reports contain global scores as well as item-level scores grouped by six domains: strengths, problem presentation, functioning, risk, child safety, and caregiver needs and strengths.

There is no additional training or certification required for the Developmental Needs Module. Attached is a PowerPoint and a Technical Assistance (TA) document that highlights this Module's application. Additionally, attached is the updated paper version of the CANS Core that includes the Developmental Needs Module. Please alert your staff to the upcoming changes and keep in mind that paper versions of the CANS are not acceptable with BHRS packet submissions – the CANS must be submitted electronically.

Providers must develop internal workflows to ensure all staff complete the CANS prior to each evaluation, and that the CANS report is available for review by the evaluator and incorporated into the member's evaluation and treatment plan for all members with Autism, and over the age of 3.

We look forward to working with you to collect clinical outcomes for our BHRS members with Autism that are over the age of 3. We appreciate your participation in the process. If you have any questions, please contact me at TAKarbiner@MagellanHealth.com.

Sincerely,

Tara Karbiner

Tara Karbiner, MSW, LCSW
Director of Child and Family Resiliency