

BULLETIN

Michigan Medicaid Policy (MMP) | Health Services

Bulletin Number: MMP 25-36

Distribution: Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP), Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP), Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC), Medicaid Health Plans (MHP)

Issued: August 29, 2025

Subject: Revision to Requirements for the Use of the Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (MichiCANS) Screener and Comprehensive

Effective: October 1, 2025

Programs Affected: Medicaid

Introduction

The purpose of the bulletin is to establish revisions in Medicaid Policy related to acceptance and use of the Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (MichiCANS) Screener and Comprehensive results that are completed by certified raters from Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS)-designated Michigan child-serving systems. For additional information regarding the use of the MichiCANS tool, refer to the MichiCANS section of the Behavioral Health and Intellectual and Developmental Disability Supports and Services chapter within the [MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual](#).

Certified raters are individuals who have been trained and certified in the use of the MichiCANS. MDHHS-designated Michigan child-serving systems currently include the systems listed below and will also include other child-serving systems that MDHHS designates in the future.

- Children's Services Administration (CSA)
- Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC)
- Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP)
- Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP)
- Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities (PRTF)
- State Hospital Administration (SHA)
- Comprehensive Health Care Program contracted providers under contract with the Medicaid Health Plans (MHP)
- Other MDHHS designated child-serving systems

General Description

MichiCANS Screener

PIHPs, CMHSPs, CCBHCs, and MHPs must accept and utilize MichiCANS Screener ratings and eligibility determinations that have been completed by certified raters from other Michigan child-serving systems. This requirement will ensure that families are not subjected to duplicative screening processes.

PIHPs, CMHSPs, CCBHCs, and MHPs will:

1. Review the current MichiCANS Screener ratings received by other child-serving systems.
2. Enter the information in their Electronic Health Record (EHR) system.
3. Update the information when there are significant changes in conditions or circumstances.

PIHPs, CMHSPs, CCBHCs, and MHPs will ensure that a child or youth who is requesting services and has been discharged from outpatient services within one year will not be required to repeat the screening process. The PIHP, CMHSP, or CCBHC will also ensure that a child or youth presenting with mental health needs will be triaged as urgent, emergent or routine, consistent with the Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration Access System Standards ([Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities Administration, Access Standards](#)).

MichiCANS Comprehensive

To ensure the information families have already shared will be used and minimize duplication in assessments, PIHPs, CMHSPs, and CCBHCs must accept and review existing MichiCANS Comprehensive ratings that have been completed by certified raters from other Michigan child-serving systems during the intake and assessment process. In the event that a MichiCANS Comprehensive exists and services are transferred to another PIHP, CMHSP, or CCBHC, the current MichiCANS Comprehensive ratings should be accepted, reviewed, and used as part of the intake and assessment process. The receiving PIHP, CMHSP, or CCBHC will update the MichiCANS Comprehensive based on life events and significant changes.

The PIHP, CMHSP, or CCBHC must demonstrate the ability to integrate previous MichiCANS Comprehensive ratings by certified raters into intake and assessment processes.

Involvement of Child Welfare Workers, Foster Parents, and Relative Caregivers

It is considered best practice to engage parents/legal guardians in all aspects of a child's mental health care unless there are reasons to restrict such engagement (e.g. a court order prohibiting contact between the parent/legal guardian and child). Child welfare workers, foster parents, legal guardian, or relative caregivers can provide consent for mental health evaluation and services for children who are temporary or permanent court wards.

In accordance with state law, when a PIHP, CMHSP, CCBHC, or MHP receives a completed MichiCANS Screener from a Health Liaison Officer (HLO) for a child in foster care, the receiving entity must inform the parent/caregiver/legal guardian and foster care worker regarding appointments for mental health services (e.g. intake and access appointments).

Manual Maintenance

Retain this bulletin until the information is incorporated into the MDHHS Medicaid Provider Manual.

Questions

Any questions regarding this bulletin should be directed to Provider Inquiry, Department of Health and Human Services, P.O. Box 30731, Lansing, Michigan 48909-8231, or e-mailed to ProviderSupport@michigan.gov. When you submit an e-mail, be sure to include your name, affiliation, NPI number, and phone number so you may be contacted if necessary. Typical Providers may phone toll-free 800-292-2550. Atypical Providers may phone toll-free 800-979-4662.

An electronic copy of this document is available at www.michigan.gov/medicaidproviders >> Policy, Letters & Forms.

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Meghan E. Groen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Meghan E. Groen, Chief Deputy Director
Health Services