



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER  
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL  
DIRECTOR

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** October 15, 2025

**TO:** Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP) and Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP) Leadership

**FROM:** Patricia Neitman, MS LLP, Bureau Director *PLN*  
Bureau of Children's Coordinated, Health, Policy, and Supports

**SUBJECT:** MichiCANS Disposition Selections, Adverse Benefit Determination, and MichiCANS Certification

The Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (MichiCANS) Screener and Comprehensive are required to assist in the determination of eligibility for specialty behavioral health services for persons birth to 21 with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and/or Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD). Please note the information below, related to the MichiCANS disposition, Adverse Benefit Determination (ABD) information, and MichiCANS certification information.

**MichiCANS Disposition Selection**

The MichiCANS Comprehensive has Decision Support Models (DSM) for all assessment types including initial, annual, new information/update, significant life event, and exit. When a DSM indicates eligibility has been met for a Michigan Intensive Child and Adolescent Services (MICAS) or Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED) Waiver program, the PIHP is required to select a disposition for each DSM including at the time of exit.

The previously distributed memo regarding dispositions is located at: [Disposition Decision Completion in the MichiCANS](#).

**Adverse Benefit Determination**

The MichiCANS Screener is used to provide standardized eligibility determinations based on functional impairment and/or risk behaviors/factors. The MichiCANS Comprehensive is used as a part of a thorough assessment to determine medical necessity and functional impairment.

When a MichiCANS Comprehensive Decision Support Model (DSM) indicates functional impairment eligibility has been met for a MICAS service and/or SED Waiver, the PIHP must discuss the DSM outcome(s) with the youth and family.

If a MICAS service or SED Waiver is requested and the clinician determines that eligibility criteria has not been met, the corresponding disposition will be selected. If the

determination results in a denial, reduction, or delay of services, the PIHP will follow contract requirements related to issuing an Adverse Benefit Determination.

### **MichiCANS Certification**

PIHPs must maintain a network of certified assessors, or contract with an appropriate entity to maintain a network of certified assessors to ensure the timely completion of the MichiCANS.

To be certified in the MichiCANS, the provider must complete:

- Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) Orientation training (3.5 hours)
- MichiCANS Overview training (3.5 hours)
- MichiCANS Certification Course –A reliability score of .70 or more is required.
- Annual recertification – Completion of the MichiCANS Certification Course with a reliability score of .70 or more.

The TCOM training platform provides two auto generated reminder emails prior to the expiration of certification (i.e.1 week prior and 1 day prior to certification expiration).

Training and certification requirements are located on the MichiCANS website at [Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths - MichiCANS](#). MichiCANS training for Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, Prepaid Inpatient Health Plan, and Community Mental Health Service Provider staff is accessible via the Capacity Building Center [MI CBC MichiCANS](#). The MichiCANS Certification Course is accessible at [www.TCOMtraining.com](http://www.TCOMtraining.com).

MDHHS encourages each PIHP certification lead to contact the Praed Foundation at [info@praedfoundation.org](mailto:info@praedfoundation.org) to develop PIHP specific reports related to staff certification status.

Please direct questions [MDHHS-MichiCANS@michigan.gov](mailto:MDHHS-MichiCANS@michigan.gov).