



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 19, 2026

TO: Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP), Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSP), and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) Leadership

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

SUBJECT: MichiCANS Updates April 2026

The Bureau of Children's Coordinated Health Policy and Supports (BCCHPS) has made updates to the MichiCANS Dispositions, Reference Guides, Rating Sheets, and Decision Support Models (DSMs) that will take effect on April 1, 2026.

MichiCANS Comprehensive Dispositions:

Effective April 1, 2026, Disposition number 6 (Other) will no longer be available for the MichiCANS Decision Support Models (DSM). This disposition option was a temporary measure used for information gathering purposes, and it is being eliminated. A MichiCANS record is not considered finalized until the applicable Decision Support Model Dispositions have been selected. PIHPs must ensure that existing MichiCANS records are finalized at the time of Individual Plan of Service completion.

Children's Waiver Program (CWP) Decision Support Model (DSM):

A new DSM for ages 0 through 5 and 6 through 18 has been added to identify potential need for the CWP. See Bulletin Number MMP 26-07 for changes to key provisions of the program and eligibility criteria. [Final Bulletin MMP 26-07 - BCCHPS.pdf](#). The CWP DSM will be integrated into the MichiCANS for use beginning April 1, 2026.

MichiCANS Comprehensive Updates (Rating Sheets/Reference Guides)

Updates have been made to align items within domains and strengthen the tool's ability to capture key areas of child, youth and family functioning. Updates will be reflected in MichiCANS Reference Guides and Rating Sheets, available on the MichiCANS website after April 1, 2026.

Key updates:

Alignment of Domains

- The Family Stress item will move to the Caregiver Strengths and Needs Domain for all age groups to better capture caregiver-related impacts on the child's functioning.

- The Self-Care Activities of Daily Living item will move to the Life Functioning Domain for 0-5 (36 months and older) and 6-20 age group reflecting the role of daily living skills within broader functional development.

Developmental Needs and Autism Spectrum Profile Modules

Effective April 1, the Developmental Needs and Autism Spectrum Profile modules will be consolidated into a single module that is titled Module A: Developmental Needs/Autism Spectrum Profile Module. With this update, if a child, youth or young adult is rated a 1, 2, or 3 on the Developmental/Intellectual and/or Autism Spectrum domain level item(s), the new combined Developmental Needs/Autism Spectrum Profile Module will be triggered to collect additional information.

Expanded Transition Age Youth Domain

Additional items have been added to the Transition Age Youth (TAY) Domain to strengthen the assessment of areas critical to independence and adult functioning. These additions allow for a more comprehensive evaluation of needs and strengths for this population, including:

- Knowledge
- Residential Stability
- Safety
- Financial Resources
- Organization

Updated Guidance within the Reference Guide

The Comprehensive Reference Guide has been updated to provide additional guidance for assessors. Specifically, new “Questions to Consider” and “Supplemental Information” has been added to the “Labor and Delivery” item to support more consistent interpretation.

In addition, both Reference Guides and Rating Sheets are available as stand-alone documents for the birth to 5 population and 6+ population as well as a combined document for all ages.