



CANVaS 2.0 Post Implementation-Fact Sheet #1

When do I administer the CANS?

How often should the CANS be administered? The answers to this question were first decided in 2009 by the State and Local Advisory Team (SLAT) at the time of implementation of the first CANVaS, the online CANS system. A "[Frequency of Administration of CANS 12 13.pdf](#)" was developed by the SLAT, and adopted by the Office of Children's Services (OCS), with two purposes in mind. First, in order to capture complete baseline data, measure progress over time, and determine if services were successful, the requirement was created that the Comprehensive version of the CANS should be administered at the start of services (Initial), yearly thereafter (Annual), and at the completion of services (Discharge). These requirements are now built into the CANVaS 2.0 software.

Secondly, the SLAT recommended, and best practice indicates, that the more intensive the services, the more often a Reassessment might be done within the yearly time frame. For example, a child in a local agency foster home receiving no additional services may not need a Reassessment during the year. (Keep in mind, though, the Annual Comprehensive version is still required.) A youth in residential treatment, however, should be reassessed monthly because of the intensive nature of that placement.

Other factors contribute to the decision about how often to reassess a specific child. Medicaid has their requirements for assessment time frames, e.g., the CANS must be done every 90 days for children receiving treatment foster care case management. As special education services such as private day placement are driven by the Individual Education Program (IEP), a locality may choose to do a six month Reassessment, or even just follow the minimum baseline requirements for the Annual Comprehensive with no Reassessments during the year.

The Comprehensive CANS consists of all the domains and any triggered or required modules. The Reassessment CANS consists of only the Domains for the Standard CANS; and the Domains with the Trauma and Child Welfare Modules for the DSS-Enhanced CANS.

Sometimes there may be confusion, particularly when using CANVaS 2.0, because the word "Reassessment" is used both to describe a version of the CANS (without the modules) and a periodic time of administration. The table below may assist in clarification, especially when using 2.0.

What's required*	When to administer	Which version to use	What it's called in CANVaS 2.0
*Initial CANS	Services begin	Comprehensive Version	Assessment Reason: Initial Assessment Tool: Comprehensive
Reassessment	During the year	Reassessment Version	Assessment Reason: Reassessment Assessment Tool: Reassessment
*Annual CANS	At the year mark from the Initial (and yearly thereafter)	Comprehensive Version	Assessment Reason: Reassessment Assessment Tool: Comprehensive
*Discharge CANS	Services end	Comprehensive Version	Assessment Reason: Discharge Assessment Tool: Comprehensive

Each local Community Policy and Management Team (CPMT) may establish its own Reassessment schedule (keeping in mind 1) the Medicaid requirements for some services and 2) that your locality will be held to that policy when audited). The only state CSA requirements are for the Initial Comprehensive CANS, the Annual Comprehensive CANS, and the Discharge Comprehensive CANS to be administered. If, according to your locality's schedule of CANS administration, a CANS is due for Reassessment shortly before the Annual Comprehensive is due, you may want to use the Comprehensive version so that CANS will "count" as your Annual CANS. Just remember the next annual CANS will be due 12 months from that date.

As you may recall, the "alerts" system in CANVaS 2.0 is being revised, although not yet in production. The system will no longer provide 90 day reminders but will provide an alert regarding the annual reminder to complete the Comprehensive version of the CANS.

