

MEDICAID POLICY INFORMATION SHEET

Policy Analyst: Megan Belonga

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Initial ☐

Public Comment ☒

Final ☐

Brief description of policy:

This policy revises requirements for the use of the Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (MichiCANS) tool by Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHP), Community Mental Health Service Programs (CMHSP), and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC).

Reason for policy (problem being addressed):

To establish requirements in Medicaid Policy related to the acceptance and use of the MichiCANS Screener and Comprehensive results completed by certified raters from MDHHS designated child-serving systems.

Budget implication:

- ☒ budget neutral
☐ will cost MDHHS \$, and is budgeted in current appropriation
☐ will save MDHHS \$

Is this policy change mandated per federal requirements?

No

Does policy have operational implications on other parts of MDHHS?

MDHHS implemented the MichiCANS to support other programs and operations within MDHHS including (1) service planning within the State Hospital Administration, (2) level of care determinations for Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, (3) screening of children entering in the foster care system, and (3) level of care determinations for CCBHCs.

Does policy have operational implications on other departments?

No

Summary of input:

- ☐ controversial
☒ acceptable to most/all groups
☐ limited public interest/comment

Supporting Documentation:

State Plan Amendment Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, please provide status: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Pending <input type="checkbox"/> Denied Date: Approval Date:	Public Notice Required: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No If yes, Submission Date:
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DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT Michigan Department of Health and Human Services		
	Project Number: 2526-BCCHPS	Date: July 8, 2025

Comments Due: August 12, 2025
Proposed Effective Date: October 1, 2025
Direct Comments To: Megan Belonga
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Phone: 517-230-7294

FAX:

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

Affected Programs: Medicaid

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

Summary: This policy revises requirements for the use of the MichiCANS tool by PIHPs, CMHSPs, and CCBHCs.

Purpose: To establish requirements in Medicaid Policy related to the acceptance and use of the MichiCANS Screener and Comprehensive results completed by certified raters from MDHHS designated child-serving systems.

Cost Implications: Budget neutral.

Potential Hearings & Appeal Issues: There are none identified.

State Plan Amendment Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, date submitted:	Public Notice Required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Submitted date:
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Tribal Notification: Yes ☐ No ☒ - **Date:**

THIS SECTION COMPLETED BY RECEIVER

<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> No Comments
	<input type="checkbox"/> See Comments Below
<input type="checkbox"/> Disapproved	<input type="checkbox"/> See Comments in Text

Signature:	Phone Number
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Signature Printed:

Bureau/Administration <i>(please print)</i>	Date
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Proposed Policy Draft

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services
Health Services

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 (proposed)

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

Effective: October 1, 2025 (proposed)

Programs Affected: Medicaid

Introduction

The purpose of the bulletin is to establish requirements 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 review current MichiCANS Screener ratings received by other child serving systems and enter the information in their information technology systems. When PIHPs, CMHSPs, CCBHCs, and MHPs enter MichiCANS Screener information from a certified rater in another child-serving system, the information will be updated when there are significant changes in conditions or circumstances.

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

MichiCANS Comprehensive

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 must update the MichiCANS Comprehensive based on life events and significant changes. This requirement will ensure the information families have already shared will be used, which reduces duplication in assessments.

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

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 and foster care worker regarding related appointments for mental health services (e.g. intake/access appointments) in accordance with state law.

Child welfare workers, foster parents, or relative caregivers can provide consent for mental health evaluation and services for children who are temporary or permanent court wards. 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.)