

CANS-San Bernardino Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Clinical Version

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In order to conduct the CANS-SB one must be certified.

What is the Certification Process?

In order to conduct the CANS-SB, one must attend a CANS Certification Training. Several contract agencies and the Department of Behavioral Health schedule these day-long trainings on a regular basis. At the end of the training, attendees review a vignette and score the CANS items for the case. In order to pass the course, an attendee must rate the items at reliability level of .70. If an attendee has difficulty on a first attempt, she/he will receive additional assistance and then can re-take the vignette until she/he achieves a passing score. The Certification expires after two years (recertification is required at this point).

When do I conduct the CANS-SB?

- The Initial CANS-SB is to be completed within the first 30 days of intake
- Refer to your specific contract as the next completion date is either quarterly or semi-annually
- A discharge CANS-SB is to be completed at the closing of service unless a scheduled CANS-SB has been completed within 30 days
- In no case shall a period of more than six months pass without a CANS-SB being completed on a client

How should I conduct the CANS-SB?

The CANS-SB is utilized to its fullest potential when it is completed as an interactive tool with the family and youth as part of the ongoing assessment process. It is important that the process is individualized to meet the needs of the family. Some agencies are sending the CANS-SB Family Narrative tool to families prior to the assessment to allow the family to review the areas on CANS before meeting with the assessor. The NY-CANS manual has a very helpful section written by Mary Beth Rautkis, PhD entitled "Effective Communication with Families Using the CANS."

Praed Foundation (2011). CHILD AND ADOLESCENT NEEDS AND STRENGTHS – NY (CANS-NY): New York State Version of CANS Manual. Retrieved November 8, 2013, from http://www.omh.ny.gov/omhweb/resources/publications/cans/cans_manual.pdf

