

**- MEMORANDUM -**

DATE: July 10, 2020  
TO: ACBH Specialty Mental Health Services (SMHS) Providers  
FROM: Amy Saucier, LMFT Clinical Review Specialist Supervisor  
SUBJECT: **Updated** Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (**CANS**) and Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (**ANSA**) **Policy and Scope of Practice Guidelines**

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This memo is intended to clarify the ACBH Guidelines for the Scope of Practice for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder services regarding the completion of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) and Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) tools.

Current [policy](#) changes will expand the use of the CANS and ANSA tool to be completed and updated by the Mental Health Rehabilitation Specialist (MHRS) under the following criteria:

1. The CANS/ANSA is separate from the initial diagnostic assessment
2. The CANS/ANSA is separate from the treatment plan
3. The CANS/ANSA is separate from annual diagnostic assessment

For example, the MHRS can complete the CANS and ANSA on a data collection platform such as Objective Arts which can aid the licensed practitioner when completing the diagnostic assessment and treatment plan.

Please refer to the [ACBH Guidelines for Scope of Practice Credentialing](#)

