

General CANS Expectations

Courtesy of Santa Clara County

- The CANS assessment process is both collaborative (completed with client, family and team members) and on-going (rather than completed in a single event).
- Early in the assessment process, the CANS should be introduced and explained to the client, family and team as an engagement and assessment tool.
- Input on the CANS is provided by the client, family and other natural supports or professionals, as directed by the family.
- As a tool for both engagement and assessment, clients and families are highly involved in providing rankings on the CANS and can be asked to elaborate on the different scores provided within the CANS.
- The CANS results are shared with the client and family team to celebrate successes and progress or to re-evaluate strategies for needs that have not changed or improved.
- The CANS is the output of the assessment process and should clearly and directly inform the treatment plan.
- Staff administering the CANS ensures that the client and family see the relationship between the CANS and the Treatment Plan process.
- When significant changes of needs and strengths occur, the CANS should be re-administered. The CANS administration should include the updating of the Comprehensive Assessment and prompt the updating of the Treatment Plan.
- The rationale for the frequency of the CANS is explained to the client and family so that they are informed of the progress in Treatment Plan goals.