🖼 CANS - blank CANS, interview guide, & manual

CANS 50

The CANS 50 assessment is completed at the beginning of treatment (at the same time as the Initial Assessment) and again at the Mid-Year (6 months after the client's initial intake session), Annually (1 year after the client's initial intake) and at Discharge. The CANs 50 does not have any narrative components and is instead composed of a series of ratings of severity of the client's symptoms. In the folder link above you will find a CANS interview guide with 9 key questions that will provide you with tons of valuable assessment information and should allow you to complete all of the CANS ratings.

- The CANS is required for all clients age 21 and under. You do not need to complete a CANS assessment for clients over age 21.

- For BHRS clients, the CANS is completed in Avatar. This video demonstrates how to find and complete the CANs Assessment in Avatar.

- For Pro Bono clients, the CANS is completed on paper and filed in the paper chart.

Initial CANS

The CANs ratings you select must align with the client's current presentation and diagnosis as you describe it in the Initial Assessment. For example, if a client is experiencing symptoms of disruptive mood dysregulation disorder, they would not have a "1" in anger control or depression, they would have a "2" or "3". They may also have a "1" or "2" in impulsivity, or anxiety, or somatization.

Our clients must meet criteria for being "moderate to severe" level of service and in order to meet this criteria there must be a 2 or 3 in the current presentation section of the CANs. If they do not have a 2 or 3 in this section and the next section, they do not meet medical necessity for our services and would be referred to a lower level of care.

Special Notes:

- If you hover over a rating, a black window appears to define the rating for you.
- All sections with red prompts are required to complete before being able to submit for Pending Approval or as Final.
- DO NOT TRUST AUTOSAVE. Do frequently "Submit" your documentation (make sure it's in "Draft") as you are working on it in Avatar in order to save the work you have done. Do not walk away from Avatar for too long, or your session will time out and you will lose unsaved data.
- The CANs does not have a "Pending Approval" submission option. It can only be submitted as a "Draft" or "Final." This means you will not submit the CANs to your note reviewer/supervisor for approval, you will be responsible for submitting the final version on your own.

Mid-Year CANS

Completed by 6 months from the client's opening date (ie; client opened 9/10/2022, Mid-Year CANs must be finalized by 3/10/2023). The process for completing a Mid-Year CANs is the same as completing an initial CANs except for a couple of items:

- Select "Reassessment" under "Form Status" instead of selecting "Initial"

- You must complete a progress note documenting that you completed the midyear CANs (see further instructions and sample note below)

You must review your initial CANs and consider the client's progress as you *complete all ratings* throughout the mid-year CANs assessment (TIP: open up the initial CANs as you work through the midyear to consider changes in the client's ratings).

- As we progress through treatment, we do want to see areas that were originally scored 2's and 3's become 0's and 1's (showing improvement and no need for action), and want to see strengths originally scored 2's and 3's become 0's and 1's (meaning these have become identifiable centerpiece strengths as a result of your work with the client).

- The mid-year CANS assessment gives us the opportunity to look at the focus of treatment and determine if new focuses have entered the work or if old focuses are no longer relevant. A good reminder is: if it is still a focus of treatment and there has

been little change, maintain a 2 or 3 score for that field (in a need category). If you have learned further information from the client in your work and it has become a focus of treatment, be sure to add it. We want to be mindful of the client's strengths and make sure our assessments do not look like the client is worse for attending treatment with their clinician, and the numbers show this.

You must also write an Assessment progress note that documents the time spent completing the Mid-Year CANs and provides a brief explanation of any changes in the client's scores between the Initial and Mid-Year CANs assessments.

- Use the Progress Notes link on the site to find a sample Mid-Year CANS progress note. The time spent writing a midyear CANS is not billable, so list the time it took you to complete the CANS under "Documentation Time"

Your Mid-Year CANS should be finalized by your 6-month anniversary date of your intake episode opening date.

- The Mid-Year CANs does not have the option to submit as "Pending Approval" so you are responsible for submitting the "Final" version on your own. The mid-year CANs does not need to be reviewed by your supervisor or note reviewer, but *please complete it thoughtfully--* you don't want your CANs scores to give the impression that your client got worse during treatment.

Annual CANS

The process for completing an Annual CANs is the same as completing a Midyear CANs. You will select "Reassessment" under "Form Status."

You must again write an Assessment (5) progress note that documents the time spent completing the Mid-Year CANs and provides a brief explanation of any changes in the client's scores between the Initial and Mid-Year CANs assessments.

The Annual CANs must be finalized by 1 year after your initial opening session with the client (ie if you opened a client on 1/15/2022, your annual CANs is due 1/15/2023)

Closing CANS

The process for completing a Closing CANs is the same as completing an initial or Midyear CANs except that you will select "Discharge" under "Form Status."

The note that accompanies the Closing CANs is your Discharge Summary Note, which provides a summary of treatment. You can find a sample of a Discharge Summary Note by following the Progress Notes link on the site.