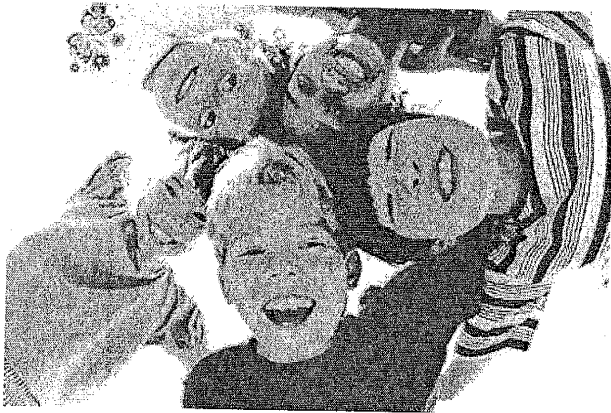


The Praed Foundation

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The Praed Foundation (pronounced prayed) was formed in 1999 as a United States Charitable Organization. The vision and mission statements provide a guide to the objectives of the Praed Foundation.

About the CANS

CANS Executive Summary

(Click here to quickly get to our downloadable content section)

The Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) is a multi-purpose tool developed for children's services to support decision making, including level of care and service planning, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services. Versions of the CANS are currently used in 25 states in child welfare, mental health, juvenile justice, and early intervention applications. A comprehensive, multi-system version exists as well.

The CANS was developed from a communication perspective so as to facilitate the linkage between the assessment process and the design of individualized service plans including the application of evidence-based practices. The CANS is easy to learn and is well liked by parents, providers and other partners in the services system because it is easy to understand and does not necessarily require scoring in order to be meaningful to an individual child and family. The way the CANS works is that each item suggests different pathways for service planning. There are four levels of each item with anchored definitions; however, these definitions are designed to translate into the following action levels (separate for needs and strengths):

For needs:

- a. No evidence
- b. Watchful waiting/prevention
- c. Action
- d. Immediate/Intensive Action

For strengths:

1. Centerpiece strength
2. Strength that you can use in planning
3. Strength has been identified-must be built
4. No strength identified

Decision support applications include the development of specific algorithms for levels of care including treatment foster care, residential treatment, intensive community services, and traditional outpatient care. Algorithms can be localized for sensitivity to varying service delivery systems and cultures. The applications of CANS-based decision algorithms have documented dramatic impacts on service system. In Illinois, use of a simple decision model for residential treatment resulted in savings of approximately \$80

million per year in residential treatment in the late 1990's. In Philadelphia, their use of a decision model for Treatment Foster Care reduced lengths of stay dramatically and saved the city \$11 million in the first year of use.

In terms of quality improvement activities, a number of settings have utilized a fidelity model approach to look at service/treatment/action planning based on the CANS assessment. A rating of '2' or '3' on a CANS needs suggests that this area must be addressed in the plan. A rating of a '0' or '1' identifies a strength that can be used for strength-based planning and a '2' or '3' a strength that should be the focus on strength-building activities.

Finally, the CANS can be used to monitor outcomes. This can be accomplished in two ways. First, items that are initially rated a '2' or '3' are monitored over time to determine the percent of youth who move to a rating of '0' or '1' (resolved need, built strength). Or, dimension scores can be generated by summing items within each of the dimensions (Problems, Risk Behaviors, Functioning, etc). These scores can be compared over the course of treatment. CANS dimension scores have been shown to be valid outcome measures in residential treatment, intensive community treatment, foster care and treatment foster care, community mental health, and juvenile justice programs.

The CANS has demonstrated reliability and validity. With training, any one with a bachelor's degree can learn to complete the tool reliably, although some applications require a higher degree. The average reliability of the CANS is 0.75 with vignettes, 0.84 with case records, and can be above 0.90 with live cases. The CANS is auditable and audit reliabilities demonstrate that the CANS is reliable at the item level. Validity is demonstrated with the CANS relationship to level of care decisions and other similar measures of symptoms, risk behaviors, and functioning.

The CANS is an open domain tool that is free for anyone to use. There is a community of people who use the various versions of the CANS and share experiences and additional items and supplementary tools.

SIX KEY COMPONENTS OF A COMMUNIMETRIC TOOL

1. Items are selected based on relevance to planning.
2. Action levels for all items
3. Consider culture and development before establishing the action level
4. Agnostic as to etiology—descriptive, no cause and effect
5. About the child, not about the service. Rate needs when masked by interventions.
6. Specific ratings window (e.g. 30 days) can be over-ridden based on action levels

To view either the manual or the form of the CANS, click on one of the links below:

- [CANS-MH Form](#)
- [CANS-MH Manual](#)
- [CANS-MH manuel en français](#)
- [CANS-MH formulaire en français](#)
- [CANS Comprehensive Form](#)
- [CANS Comprehensive Manual](#)
- [CANS-ASP \(Revised\) Formulaire en français](#)

- CANS-ASP English Form 2010
- CANS-ASP English Electronic Form 2010
- CANS-ASP (Revised) Manuel en français
- CANS-ASP English Manual 2010
- CANS Manual en español
- CANS Hoja de datos

For a better idea of how the CANS is spread out across the US and Canada click here to open a PowerPoint displaying the CANS map.

For more information:

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RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF THE CANS
There is substantial research involving the CANS. Reliability studies have demonstrated that the CANS is reliable at the item level. Training and certification is required for the use of the CANS and the recommended minimum for certification is a reliability of 0.70 using an intraclass correlation coefficient on a test vignette. Average reliability after training is approximately 0.80. Reliability on case record reviews has been demonstrated to be 0.85 while reliability with live interview strategies is above 0.90.
Validity has been demonstrated through the relationship of the CANS to other measures
IMPACT OF THE CANS ON SERVICE SYSTEMS
THE CANS AND TCOM AS A MASS COLLABORATION

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About Training On Demand

CommuniMetrics offers online training and certification for individual assessors, known as **Training On Demand (TOD)**. TOD is a Web-based CANS/ANSA training site that helps individuals learn about CANS/ANSA, achieve reliability, and get certified.

Features offered on the TOD training and certification site include:

- CANS 0 to 4, CANS 5 to 17, and ANSA
- Availability 24/7
- Train at your own pace
- Unlimited practice tests
- Provides "tutoring"
- Produces reports
- Available to anyone
- Printable certificate
- Annual recertification reminder
- Help Desk Support
- 20% discounts for groups of 25 or more people
- Prepaid Registration option for agencies

Pricing for 1 year access to TOD			
	Number of Instruments		
	1	2	3
1 person or group of less than 25*	\$49.99	\$90 (\$100 less 10%)	\$127.50 (\$150 less 15%)
Group of 25 or more*	\$40	\$80	\$120
*Per person			

Pricing

Individuals have the option to purchase online training for one, two, or all three of the instruments offered by TOD.

Individuals get up to 15% discount on purchase of more than one instrument. Groups of 25 or more get the standard 20% discount
Please refer to pricing chart below.

Have questions? Interested in pre-paid access for groups of 25 or more individuals? Contact Us!

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