

Provider Notice



From: Magellan Healthcare

Subject: Update: CANS decision support application and levels of care

Overview

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare and Magellan have partnered with Dr. John Lyons, creator of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS), to implement updated Levels of Care aided by a Decision Support Application (DSA) developed using Idaho CANS data.

The updated framework includes three broad levels of care categories: Preventive, Comprehensive and Intensive. These categories are intended to support providers in matching youth to the least restrictive and most clinically appropriate level of intervention based on assessed strengths and needs.

The DSA was developed using Idaho-specific CANS data to identify patterns associated with service intensity and to support more consistent recommendations across the provider network. The DSA is intended to supplement, not replace, clinical judgment and individualized care planning.

What providers should know

- The DSA will generate a recommended level of care upon submission of a CANS in the Outcomes and Assessments System (P-CIS).
- CANS assessments completed prior to July 1, 2026, will not be affected.

Key highlights

- **What's changing:** Updated levels of care
- **Why:** Simplify the process and improve consistency
- **When:** July 1, 2026
- **Magellan provider forum:** June 30, 2026, at 9 a.m. MT, 8 a.m. PT. [To register, click here.](#)

Learn more

- Visit yes.idaho.gov/cans for supplemental materials.
- Contact bhtcom@dhw.idaho.gov with questions or to schedule time with the Idaho Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) team for a brief training.
- Attend the upcoming [Magellan provider forum](#) on June 30 to learn more about these updates and ask questions.