



Provider **Alert**

ALERT #37

May 7, 2008

Requirement to complete the Massachusetts Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool

The following information should be noted immediately to your chief executive officer, chief operating officer, program director, billing director, and staff.

This alert serves to clarify responsibilities of providers with regard to training, certification, and use of the Massachusetts version of the Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool.

As of **Nov. 30, 2008**, MBHP will require a uniform behavioral health assessment process that includes a comprehensive needs assessment employing the Massachusetts Child Adolescent Needs and Strengths (CANS) tool for MassHealth Members under age 21. The attached letter offers more detailed information about the processes that must be completed in order for clinicians and provider organizations to be prepared to meet this requirement.

Any questions should be directed to the MBHP Community Relations Department at **1-800-495-0086 (press #3 then #1 to skip prompts)**, Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.