

**Aetna Better Health® of Michigan**  
2 Towne Square Suite #275  
Southfield, MI 48076  
1-866-316-3784



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is shifting to a **more person-centered approach to serving Michiganders with mental health needs**. As part of [MIHealthyLife](#), an initiative that began in 2022 to strengthen the Comprehensive Health Care Program (CHCP), MDHHS is partnering with Medicaid Health Plans (MHPs), Prepaid Inpatient Health Plans (PIHPs), and providers to improve accountability for and coordination of mental health care across the Medicaid program. Effective October 1, 2025, MHPs must ensure all Qualified Mental Health Providers with whom we contract incorporate into their practice:

Use of standardized tools for assessing the level of mental health need of Medicaid enrollees seeking mental health care—the State’s designated assessment tools are the Michigan Child and Adolescent Needs and Strengths (MichiCANS) Screener for children and youth (under 21) and the Level of Care Utilization System (LOCUS) for adults (21 and older).

A Qualified Mental Health Provider is: A Child Mental Health Professional (CMHP), Qualified Mental Health Professional (QMHP), or Qualified Intellectual Disability Professional (QIDP), as defined in the Medicaid Provider Manual, whose scope of practice includes assessment of mental health need. CMHP, QMHP and QIDPs whose scope of practice includes assessment of mental health within this context include:

- Physician
- Psychiatrist
- Nurse Practitioner
- Physician’s Assistant
- Psychologist or Limited Licensed Psychologist
- Licensed or Limited Licensed Professional Counselor
- Licensed or Limited Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
- Licensed or Limited Licensed Master's Social Worker

All Qualified Mental Health Providers contracted within an MHP or PIHP network, whose scope of practice includes assessment of mental health need, must complete initial and ongoing training required to administer the MichiCANS Screener and LOCUS. Based on your credentials, you and/or your practice may meet the definition of a Qualified Mental Health Provider. Aetna Better Health of Michigan, therefore, strongly encourages you to complete both trainings.

- *MichiCANS Screener*: The MichiCANS Screener training for MHP network providers includes two live training sessions: the Transformational Collaborative Outcomes Management (TCOM) training and the MichiCANS Overview training, both of which are required and must be completed in that order. MHP network providers should use [these instructions](#) to register for the MichiCANS training.
- *LOCUS*: The LOCUS training is an online, self-paced training, HMP network providers can utilize [these instructions](#) to register for the LOCUS training. Please review these [technical specifications](#) prior to setting up an account and to troubleshoot issues.

Standardized Assessment training is free for Medicaid Health Plan providers and is eligible for CME/CEU credit (details vary between each training).

[www.aetnabetterhealth.com/michigan](http://www.aetnabetterhealth.com/michigan)  
APN# 7752135-98-01

If the scope of your practice does not include assessment of mental health need, and therefore, standardized assessment training is not required for you and/or your practice, please reach out to your Provider Representative so we may update our records. Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact Provider Services at 1-866-316-3784.

Regards,  
Provider Engagement  
Aetna Better Health of MI