



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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To: Executive Directors, Behavioral Health Directors, and Utilization Managers
Local Mental Health Authorities (LMHAs)
North Texas Behavioral Health Authority (NTBHA) and Value Options

From: Ross Robinson, Director Program Services Section I *RCI*
Trina K. Ita, MA, LPC, Director Program Services Section II *RCI*
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division

Re: Adjustment in the calculation of the Reliable Change Index (RCI) for the Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA) and the Child Assessment of Needs and Strengths (CANS)

Within the state of Texas, FY14 was the initial benchmarking year for the use of the Texas versions of the ANSA and the CANS. Accordingly, data have been assessed for the full year and adjustments have been made to the RCI to increase its accuracy in terms of reliability and scientific scrutiny. Along with these adjustments, we have opted to rearrange our mathematical formulation slightly such that the benchmark value tables in the current version of Information Item C are no longer required. Instead of the tables, the benchmark value for statistical significance will be ± 1.645 for all domains, modules, and items of the ANSA and the CANS. We are amending Information Item C to reflect this change.

The RCI allows us to assess whether changes in scores over time are due to normal day-to-day fluctuations, or whether individuals have experienced significant changes in functioning. Acceptable/Improving/Worsening/No Statistically Significant Change are thus being redefined to the following:

- *Acceptable*: Score of 0 or 1 at Time 1 followed by a score of 0 or 1 at Time 2
- *Improving*: RCI calculation exceeds the RCI benchmark in a negative direction (i.e., ≤ -1.645), indicating a decrease in problematic symptomology
- *Worsening*: RCI calculation exceeds the RCI benchmark in a positive direction (i.e., $\geq +1.645$), indicating an increase in problematic symptomology
- *No Statistically Significant Change*: RCI calculation is between the negative and positive RCI benchmarks and does not reflect scores that were 0 or 1 at both Time 1 and Time 2 (i.e., $-1.645 < \text{RCI calculation} < +1.645$)

Please direct any questions regarding this change in the RCI to Joanna Hutchison at (512) 206-4718 or joanna.hutchison@dshs.state.tx.us.