

# Adult Needs and Strengths Assessment (ANSA)

## USER TIP SHEET

The ANSA is a multi-purpose tool developed to support care planning and level of care decision-making, to facilitate quality improvement initiatives, and to allow for the monitoring of outcomes of services. Developed from a communication perspective, it facilitates the linkage between the assessment process and the design of individualized service plans including the application of evidence-based practices.

### Guiding Principles

1. Items are included because they are relevant for planning and decision making.
2. Item ratings translate into action levels.
3. Focus is on the individual's needs, not interventions or services that could mask a need.
4. Consider culture and development before establishing action levels.
5. It's about the 'what,' not the 'why.' Don't explain away needs with what you think might be an underlying cause.
6. Specific ratings window (30-days) can be overridden based on action levels.

### Before rating an item, consider the following questions:

- Is there any evidence of a need or strength?
- Are you understanding the individual's behavior within normal development given her/his age?
- Have you considered the individual's culture? Does your approach to assessment and engagement communicate respect for the individual's culture?
- Is the need impacting the individual's functioning?
- How urgently is action required on a need? How useful is the individual's strength in achieving targeted outcomes?
- Are you focused on describing the need or strength, and not the underlying cause?
- What services are already in place for the individual?



### Item Rating: Action Levels

#### Rating Needs Domains

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | No evidence of need; no need for action.  |
| 1 | History of or possible need; watchful waiting/prevention/additional assessment. |
| 2 | Need is interfering with functioning; action or intervention required.          |
| 3 | Need is dangerous or disabling; immediate or intensive action required.         |

#### Rating Strengths Domains

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 0 | Centerpiece strength; central to planning.                                    |
| 1 | Strength present; useful in planning.   |
| 2 | Identified strength; consider strength building or development activities.    |
| 3 | No strength identified; strength creation or identification may be indicated. |