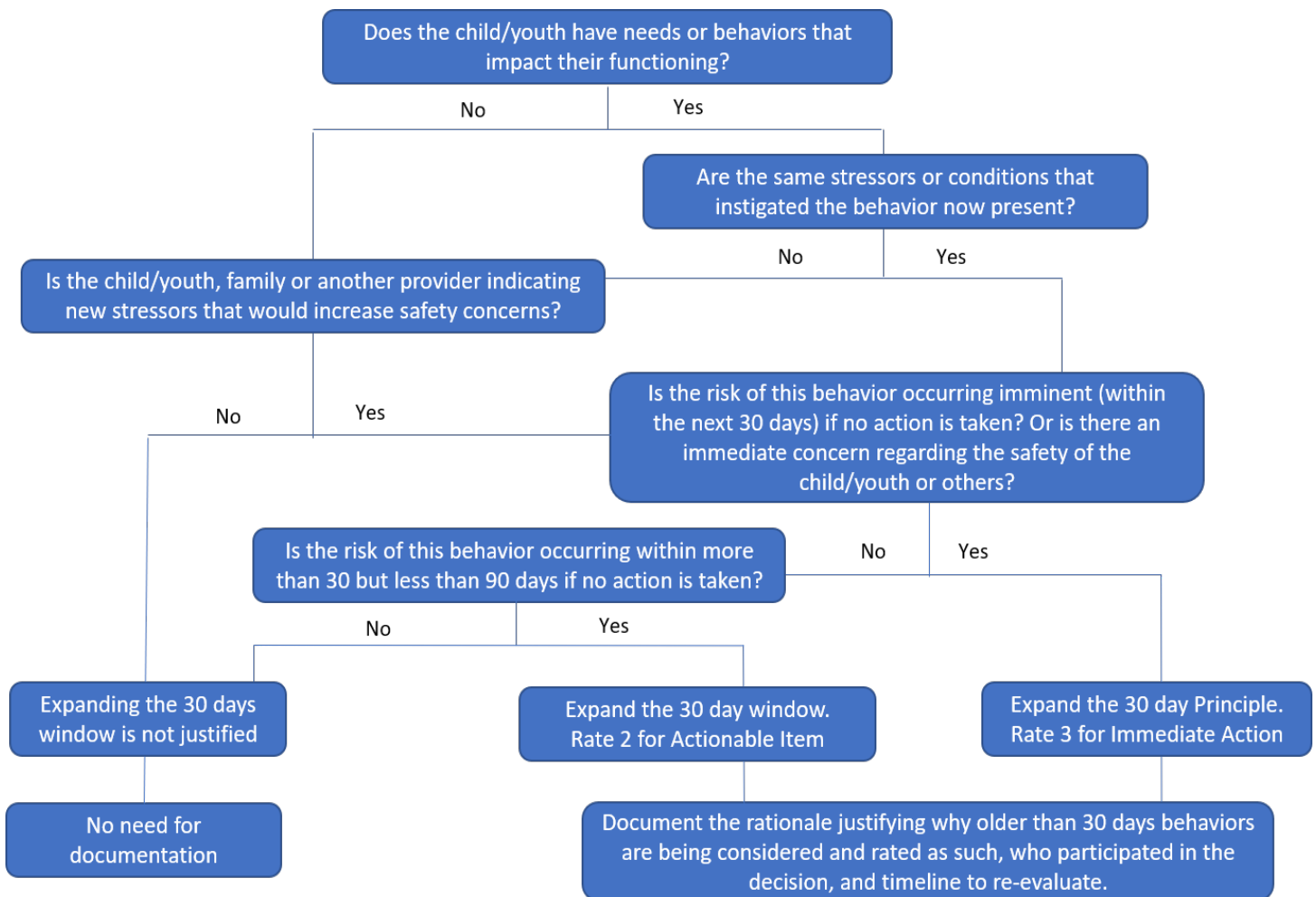


Key Principle: Rate Items Within a 30-Day Window

The 30-day Window emphasizes that we do not want to encourage personal change, so we wish to know how a child and family are doing now—not how they used to be doing. However, the 30-day window has a different meaning for a Communitric measure such as the CANS compared to traditional measures. Since you are measuring the story, the CANS reflects on what is relevant in the past 30 days, not what happened in the last thirty days. In other words, we are not measuring whether it occurred in the last 30 days but whether it mattered in the previous 30 days. Therefore, things that happened in the past that have a functional impact today can be rated as actionable based on this concept.



Please note that when contemplating whether the 30-day Window fails to capture a child/youth’s true level of actionable need or risk, consider if it is due to masking. Masking occurs when a service currently in place is covering a need. For example, a child/youth with a known history of delinquent behavior may not have committed any new acts during the last 30 days because they are in a residential program with 24-hour supervision. This would not be an example of expanding the 30-day window Principle, but rather, an example of Principle 3: Rate the Individual, not the Individual in Care. See the tip sheet: “Key Principle: Ratings Describe the Individual not the individual in Support Services”.

The following examples include the items, the ratings, and a sample of how that rating and the reasons behind it might be documented.

Examples		
Item	Rating	Sample Documentation
School Behavior	3	<p>Joe is an 11-year-old youth who is being admitted into a Day Treatment program at an alternative school for emotionally disturbed youth. His referral was triggered by his sudden explosive behavior while in school, resulting in the significant injury of a teacher who was pressuring him to complete his in-class assignment. He has been on a waiting list for 4 months for day treatment services and has been receiving home tutoring during that period. Although he has done well with the tutor, Child Protective Services has been in the home to monitor the children due to safety issues arising from domestic violence following the release of Dad from prison 5 months ago. The treatment team at the Day Treatment.</p> <p>The program has determined that the stressors in Joe’s life (structured school setting and Dad’s return home) warrant overriding the 30-Day Window. If he is able to manage his behaviors without an aggressive act for one month, School Behavior will be rated a “2”.</p>
Suicide Risk	2	<p>Sue is a 15-year-old youth who was admitted the previous year to inpatient psychiatric care following a suicide attempt after her father died unexpectedly. Although she is denying ideation, the mother notes Sue’s growing anxiety and depression as the anniversary of her father’s death approaches. The interdisciplinary team, at the mother’s request, is rating her as actionable for the next 3 months. At that time, she will be reassessed and the rating will be adjusted to meet Sue’s anticipated needs.</p>