

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2598-MC-FFS**DATE:** June 14, 2024**TO:** Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Providers, Community-Based Neuro-Rehabilitation, Habilitation Services, Health Home, Home Health Agency, Hospice, Integrated Health Home, Other Practitioner – General, Residential Care Facility, Targeted Case Manager, Waiver**APPLIES TO:** Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)**FROM:** Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Iowa Medicaid**RE:** Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Intellectual Disability (ID) Medicaid Waiver Update**EFFECTIVE:** June 4, 2024

The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will transition the level of care assessment tools for individuals on the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Intellectual Disability (ID) waiver January 1, 2025. Iowa HHS will begin using the interRAI-Intellectual Disability (interRAI-ID) and interRAI Children and Youth Mental Health-Developmental Disabilities (ChYMH-DD) assessment tools for all new and recurring assessments for individuals accessing the ID waiver on that date.

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) has been the primary assessment tool for the ID waiver since 2014. The American Association for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is retiring the current version of the SIS-Adult (SIS-A) and has authorized Iowa HHS to use the SIS-A through December 31, 2024. HHS will stop conducting the SIS-Child (SIS-C) at the same time as the SIS-A.

This shift to the interRAI assessment tools reflects Iowa HHS's overall effort to improve the participant's experience and streamline the assessment process to ensure it is more person-centered as part of the [Hope and Opportunities in Many Environments \(HOME\) project](https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/current-projects/home)¹. Iowa

¹ <https://hhs.iowa.gov/programs/welcome-iowa-medicaid/current-projects/home>

HHS plans to develop a more uniform assessment process to consistently assess needs across all waiver populations in the future.

To gather essential information to inform the future assessment process, Iowa HHS will conduct a voluntary “parallel assessment” to facilitate the transition from the SIS instruments to the interRAI assessments. This process, which is entirely voluntary, will gather information to inform the development of waiver budgets and service payment tiers (as needed) based on the interRAI-ID and ChYMH-DD starting in 2025.

Trained assessors from managed care organizations (MCOs) and Telligen will contact members from June 17 to July 12, 2024, to ask them to participate in this voluntary assessment. Participation in the interRAI-ID and ChYMH-DD assessments is entirely up to the members during this time. These assessments will occur over the phone with ID waiver members who’s recent off-year assessments (OYAs) indicated no change in condition. If members agree to participate, their assessment results will be analyzed to ensure that the interRAI tools produce the correct tier as identified from their prior SIS tools. Members who choose to participate will **NOT** have their tier or level of care decision change based on the results of the parallel assessment. The parallel assessment is for informational purposes only.

Iowa HHS sent an introductory letter and FAQs by mail on June 4. If you have questions, you can contact iowahcbs@mathematica-mpr.com.