
INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2657-MC-FFS

DATE: January 9, 2025

TO: Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Providers, Integrated Health Homes (IHH), Case Managers, Targeted Case Managers

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS)

FROM: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Iowa Medicaid

RE: 2025 Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Assessment Changes

EFFECTIVE: January 1, 2025

Effective January 1, 2025, Iowa Medicaid will begin using a new assessment tool for members enrolled in the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver. Iowa Medicaid will replace the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) with interRAI tools. Also, **effective January 1, 2025**, Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) will no longer conduct assessments for members enrolled in the HCBS ID Waiver.

Assessment Tool Changes

Iowa Medicaid has used the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS)-Adult as the primary assessment for the Intellectual Disability (ID) Waiver since 2014. The American Association for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD) is retiring the current version of the SIS-Adult and authorized Iowa Medicaid to use the SIS-Adult through December 31, 2024. Iowa Medicaid will begin using interRAI assessment tools for individuals enrolled in HCBS ID Waiver beginning **January 1, 2025**. This shift to the interRAI assessment tools reflects Iowa Medicaid's overall effort to make the assessment process more streamlined and person-centered as part of the Hope and Opportunities in Many Environments (HOME) project. The interRAI - Intellectual Disability (interRAI-ID) assessment tool will be used for all new and recurring assessments for individuals on the ID waiver aged eighteen (18) and older. The

interRAI Children and Youth Mental Health - Developmental Disabilities (ChYMH-DD) assessment tool will be used for all new and recurring assessments for individuals on the ID waiver aged four (4) to seventeen (17). The Case Management Comprehensive Functional Assessment Tool will continue to be used for individuals aged zero (0) to three (3) on the ID waiver.

Assessor Changes

Initial and annual reassessments for ID Waiver are required to determine if HCBS waiver participants meet the eligibility requirements to receive long-term services and supports (LTSS) available to ID Waiver participants. **Beginning January 1, 2025, ID Waiver members enrolled with an MCO will have their assessments completed by Telligen, Iowa Medicaid's core standardized assessment (CSA) vendor.** Members enrolled in Fee-for-Service (FFS) already have their assessments completed by Telligen, therefore, they will experience no change.

This decision is a direct response to the valuable feedback we received from stakeholders during the HOME project. Through crucial informant conversations, steering committee calls and HOMEtown events, Iowa Medicaid learned that many invested Iowans had experienced actual or perceived conflict of interest during the assessment and service planning process. This feedback was instrumental in shaping our new approach.

If you have questions, please contact Iowa Medicaid Provider Services:

Iowa Medicaid Provider Services:

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