

WHAT IS THE SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE?

Unlike many assessments you or your family member may have experienced, the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) reflects a positive way of thinking. SIS focuses on the support needs for individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities (I/DD) to be successful.

The SIS focuses on various areas of a person's life. For adults, the person's support needs in the following areas are discussed: home living, community living, lifelong learning, employment or school, health & safety, social, and advocacy. For children, the person's support needs in the following areas are discussed: home life, community and neighborhood, school participation and learning, health and safety, social, and advocacy. Medical and Behavioral Supports needs are also part of both interviews.

The SIS results will provide useful information for development of Individual Support Plans (ISP) because it gathers a wealth of information about an individual's support needs.

The SIS interview is led by a professional with experience supporting individuals with I/DD. SIS Evaluators receive intensive training and are certified annually to implement the SIS tool.

WHY IS NORTH CAROLINA USING THE SIS?

The SIS is a nationally recognized tool that is valid and reliable. It was developed by The American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD). AAIDD, an independent organization, took five years to develop and thoroughly test this tool. The SIS measures the type, frequency, and duration of support an individual needs in many life activities.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT AT THE INTERVIEW?

The SIS interview is a structured conversation where questions are asked about the supports the person needs to achieve success in various life activities. Members of the individual's SIS team will answer questions about support needs. In other assessments, the questions are related to the *skills* the person needs to be successful, whereas the SIS focuses on the *supports* needed for the person to be successful.

In order to make sure the most accurate information is shared:

- Everyone participating should know the day-to-day support needs of the individual
- Everyone should be prepared and feel free to share information when asked

WHAT KIND OF QUESTIONS WILL BE ASKED?

The SIS interview is thorough and consists of 90 questions. In general, these questions are about supports needed at home, in the community, and at work or school. Here is an example of a "social" question:

Does Barbara need support to socialize?

- If so, what type of support is needed? (monitoring, prompting, partial assistance or physical assist)
- How often is it needed? (weekly, daily, hourly)
- How much time does the support take? (total time)

WHO IS A PART OF THE SIS INTERVIEW?

The individual receiving services is encouraged to be a part of the interview, along with at least two people who know him/her/them well. If the individual receiving services cannot stay for the entire interview, arrangements need to be made for the individual to meet the SIS Evaluator.

The following are examples of people who are present during SIS interviews:

- Family and friends who know the individual well
- Persons working with the individual for at least three months who are familiar with needed supports
- The SIS Evaluator who will ask questions and take notes from the group's conversation

WHERE DOES THE INTERVIEW TAKE PLACE?

The location is up to the individual and/or family. Interviews may occur anywhere that allows for **uninterrupted privacy**. Options include:

- Individual's or a family member's home
- Individual's day service location
- Provider meeting room
- Community meeting room

HOW MUCH TIME SHOULD I ALLOW FOR THE INTERVIEW?

Allow **two to three hours** for the interview. Breaks can be taken as needed by the group. Two people must stay for the entire interview for it to be considered a valid assessment.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE SIS?

Visit www.aaidd.org or

www.TrilliumHealthResources.org

TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL SIS INTERVIEW

Before the Interview

- Think about the various areas of the individual's life and his or her support needs; ask the following: What type? How often? How much time?
- Remember, this interview is not about the current services the individual receives.
- Let the SIS Evaluator know of any areas that may be sensitive or embarrassing to the individual.

During the Interview

- Keep in mind that we will be talking about things the individual may not do now, but may do in the future.
- During the conversation, if you disagree with something said or how something is scored, speak up.
- We can stop for breaks; just ask.

After the Interview

Contact the Care Manager or SIS Evaluator:

- If there are questions about what happened at the interview or what should happen next.
- If you have questions about the interview results.
- If you are not satisfied or have a complaint about the process.

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does the SIS replace the Person-Centered Planning (PCP) or Individual Supports Planning (ISP) Meetings?

No. The PCP or ISP meetings happen each year.

Will I continue to have an NC SNAP?

The Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) has replaced the NC SNAP.

Who will receive an SIS?

Members who receive Innovations Waiver services will receive a SIS.

Will I receive an SIS every year?

Children will receive a SIS every two years and adults will receive a SIS every three years.



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www.TrilliumHealthResources.org

Trillium Health Resources is a Local Management Entity/Managed Care Organization (LME/MCO).

We are designated by the NC Department of Health & Human Services to oversee state and federally funded services for 28 counties in eastern North Carolina.

Trillium is responsible for providing access to and oversight of services for individuals who receive Medicaid or state funding for their care. Trillium complies with applicable Federal civil rights laws and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

Trillium requires priority admission to all women who are pregnant and injecting drugs, pregnant and using substances, and other individuals who are injecting drugs. Trillium does not publish materials or share information that is intimidating, misleading, or inaccurate.

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How to prepare for your Supports Intensity Scale® interview.

SIS®

THE SUPPORTS INTENSITY SCALE® INTERVIEW

