

SIS[®]

Supports Intensity Scale[®]

Supports Intensity Scale[®]

**for Individuals Receiving DD Waivers and
Their Families**



Virginia Department of
Behavioral Health &
Developmental Services

DBHDS Vision: A life of possibilities for all Virginians



What is SIS[®]?



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What is SIS[®]?



The Supports Intensity Scale[®] (SIS[®]) was developed by the **American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities** (AAIDD) over a five-year period in response to changes in how society views and relates to people with disabilities.

The SIS[®] is a standardized assessment tool, specifically designed to measure the pattern and intensity of supports needed by individuals to be successful.



SIS® Development



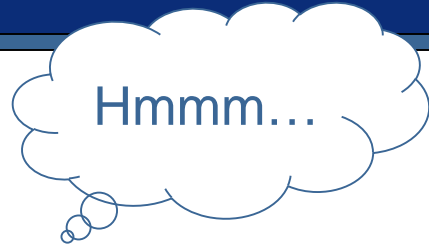
Normed with over 1,300 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who had a variety of support needs in 33 states and 2 Canadian provinces.

Individuals ranged in age from 16 to 72 and were culturally diverse.

Determined to be reliable and valid for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.



Developmental Disabilities



Is the SIS[®] valid for people with developmental disabilities, like autism?

YES!



How was this Determined?



When the SIS® was statistically validated people with a diagnosis of autism, as well as other developmental disabilities, were part of the validation group.

Since initial publication, the SIS® has been investigated with a range of people with different disabilities and verified as statistically reliable.

The SIS® focuses on the supports a person needs to meet their goals, not on a diagnosis.



The SIS® Today



Currently in use by 22 states and 17 countries.

The Supports Intensity Scale-Adult Version® (SIS-A®) and the Supports Intensity Scale-Children's Version® (SIS-C®) have been used for interviews in Virginia since March 2016.

SIS-C® is used for children 5-15 years of age



Summary



The SIS[®] was developed by the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD)

Is a standardized, reliable and valid assessment to measure the supports needed by an individual to be successful

Is valid for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities



SIS[®] in Virginia



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Reasons for Using the SIS® in Virginia



The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS) requires a comprehensive assessment be completed for individuals receiving a DD Waiver.

To involve the individual as a vital source of information.

Direct, reliable, and valid measure of supports needed across life areas.



Reasons for Using the SIS® in Virginia



SIS® reflects a positive way of thinking; it looks at the supports needed for the individual to be successful versus focusing on his or her deficits.

Is useful in planning for individual supports and services.



SIS®

Supports Intensity Scale®

Who Conducts SIS® Interviews?

AAIDD performed previous SIS® assessments.

DBHDS contracts with **Ascend Management Innovations, Inc.** ("Ascend") to conduct SIS® assessments in VA.

The Ascend website address is:
www.ascendami.com



SIS® Interviewers are Professionals Who:



Have experience and a degree in the field of Developmental Disabilities

Have participated in Ascend's rigorous training schedule

Have passed AAIDD's Interviewer Reliability and Quality Review sessions

Have been endorsed by AAIDD as a SIS® interviewer



Summary



CMS requires an assessment for all individuals receiving a DD Waiver in Virginia

SIS® assessments are conducted by **Ascend Management Innovations, Inc.'s** (Ascend) highly-trained interviewers who have experience in the field of Developmental Disabilities



Supports, Intensity, Scale



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What is Meant by “Supports” in the SIS®?

The things we do with or for someone to help the person do something successfully.



Supports May Occur



- ✓ At Home
- ✓ With Friends and Relationships
- ✓ While Making Choices
- ✓ At Work or Other Meaningful Day Activity
- ✓ While Participating in Activities of Interest to the Individual



What is Meant by “Intensity” in the SIS®?

Intensity is the level of support an individual needs.



Intensity is:

The level of support an individual needs.



Lots of Support



Some Support



Little Support



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What is Meant by “Scale” in the SIS®?

A standardized way of measuring support needs.



Scale Means:

Everyone is measured on the same basis.

RATING =

4

3

2

1

0



Summary



Supports are the things we do with or for someone to help them do something successfully

Intensity is the level of support a person needs to be successful

Scale is a standardized way of measuring support needs



Components of SIS[®]



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Sections of SIS-Adult[®]



Exceptional Medical Support Needs
(Section 1A)

Exceptional Behavioral Support Needs
(Section 1B)





Support Needs (Section 2)

- Home Living
- Community Living
- Lifelong Learning
- Employment
- Health and Safety
- Social

Protection and Advocacy (Section 3)

- Supplemental Questions
- May be asked to clarify support needs
 - including risk of falls



Sections of SIS-Child®



Exceptional Medical Support Needs
(Section 1A)

Exceptional Behavioral Support Needs
(Section 1B)





Support Needs (Section 2)

- Home Life
- Community and Neighborhood
- School Participation
- School Learning
- Health and Safety
- Social
- Advocacy

Supplemental Questions

- May be asked to clarify support needs
 - including risk of falls



SIS[®] measures differences in

- Support Type
- Frequency
- Daily Support Time
between:

Standards of same
age adults in the
community

Individual's own
patterns of behavior

Expectations
Responsibility
Involvement

Expectations
Responsibility
Involvement



Two Rating Keys



Exceptional Medical/Behavioral Supports Needs (Section 1)

- No Support Needed
- Some Support Needed
- Extensive Support Needed

Activity Domains (Sections 2 & 3)

- Type of Support
- Frequency of Support
- Daily Support Time



SIS® Format



The SIS® usually takes about 2 hours.

In order to obtain the information needed, the SIS® asks for information in a semi-structured format.

To complete the SIS® in a thorough but timely way, provide information as requested by the interviewer.

Some questions may appear to be similar but actually capture different information.



SIS® Format



Medical and behavioral sections are completed first to help the interviewer become more familiar with the person.

Rated to reflect the support needs the individual has at the time of the assessment.

The SIS® is a snapshot in time.



The Interview



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What Will the Interviewer Do?

Explain the interview process

Ask the interview questions

Record your answers



What Will the Interviewer Do?



Assist the team to develop a clear picture of the individual's support needs because:

- A. there may be differences in the way the person and others see the person's supports needs
- B. individuals sometimes need different supports in different settings



What Will the Interviewer Do?



Gather the information provided by the respondents and record the most accurate rating based on this report.



What is a SIS® Interview Respondent?

A respondent is a person designated to answer questions about the support needs of the individual.

This includes the person themselves.





The right respondents can make all the difference.

An interview typically includes:

- ✓ The Individual
- ✓ A guardian or family member
- ✓ One or several waiver services provider(s)
- ✓ The Support Coordinator



The Interview



**“The interview
is about the
individual’s life.**

**It is not the
family’s or
provider’s
interview.”**



~AAIDD 2008



Scheduling the Interview



Ascend is provided with the names and contact information for potential respondents by the Support Coordinator.

When it is time to schedule the interview, Ascend contacts the Support Coordinator to identify his/her availability.

After the Support Coordinator's availability is confirmed, Ascend contacts the individual and other respondents to schedule the interview.



Scheduling the Interview



The person being interviewed is encouraged to participate as much as possible. At a minimum, the interviewer must meet the individual.

Primary respondents must stay for the duration of the interview.

If a person uses Assistive Technology, he or she is rated with the technology in place at the interview.



When Will My Next SIS® be Scheduled?



A SIS® assessment is required every three years for adults and every two years for children 5-15 years of age.

If you are 16 years or older, your next SIS® interview should occur no more than 3 years since your last SIS®.

If you are 5-15 years of age, your next SIS® interview should occur no more than 2 years since your last SIS®.



When Will My Next SIS® be Scheduled?



If you have not had a SIS® completed by AAIDD or Ascend and you have:

Canceled the interview:

- ✓ coordinate scheduling of the meeting when Ascend contacts you

Been contacted by Ascend but not responded:

- ✓ return the call and coordinate scheduling of an interview



When Will My Next SIS® be Scheduled?

If you have not had a SIS® completed by AAIDD or Ascend and you have:

Not been contacted by Ascend:

- ✓ contact your Support Coordinator to confirm your respondent information was provided to Ascend



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When Will My Next SIS® be Scheduled?



Once scheduled, SIS® assessments should not be cancelled except for an emergency.



Before the Interview



Think about each of the sections listed previously; what parts of these tasks are you able to complete for yourself?

If you provide support to the individual being interviewed, consider what supports you provide for each of the areas listed.

Then, think about all of the ways the person **CAN** participate in completion of the task.



During the Interview



Answer all the questions

- ✓ even if they don't seem to apply to the individual now or in the future.

Describe supports

- ✓ This is what makes the picture complete and person-centered.

Be specific

- ✓ when describing the support needs of the individual.

Ask the interviewer

- ✓ to slow down or repeat the question, if needed.



Things To Remember



The SIS® is not a test. It is a guided conversation with participants.

As a respondent, provide accurate and specific information to the interviewer.

Be patient if the interviewer asks more questions. This is part of the process for assigning an accurate rating.



To's and For's



To's and For's are important components in developing a person centered plan and life.

Important "To's" and "For's" are listed only for the next plan year.



Important “To” the Person

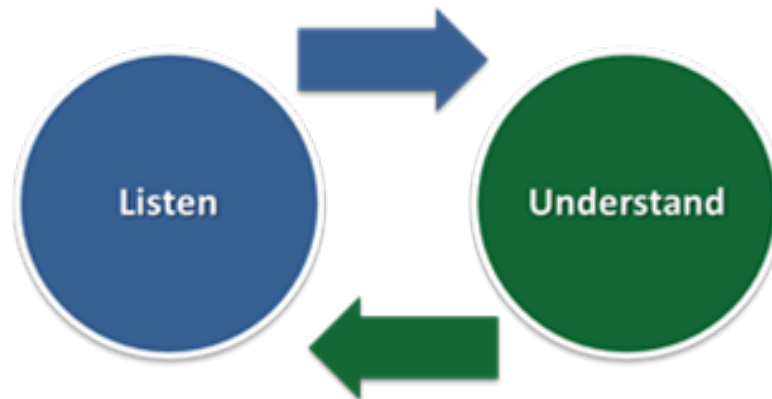


What individuals say “in their own words”

What individuals say with “their own behavior”

What you hear depends on what you are listening for

~ ELP Learning Community 2005



Important “For” the Person



Health

Safety

Being a valued member of his or her community



SIS® and the Person Centered Plan



The SIS® creates a picture of supports the person needs to have a life of his or her choosing.

Areas of focus for the plan are prioritized by the person and his or her team of support.



Common Questions



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Distribution of the SIS®



The Support Coordinator sends SIS® results to the individual, guardian/family member and providers between 8 – 15 business days after the interview.

Everyone including the individual, Support Coordinator, provider and guardian/family member receives the same version of the SIS® Report.

After scoring of the SIS® by DBHDS, a level and tier are assigned and entered in the Waiver Management System (WaMS).



A New SIS[®] Is Needed When:



An individual is new to DD Waiver.

There has been a significant and sustained increase/decrease in medical or behavioral support needs (Sections 1A/1B) for 6 months or more.

There has been a sustained and significant change in any 2 Life/Activity Domains for 6 months or more.



Review



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Review Process



What can I do if I believe my SIS® was not conducted within the VA Standard Operating Procedures for the SIS®?

The individual and his/her legal guardian/ authorized representative may submit a VA SIS® Review form within 30 business days of receiving the report.



Review Process



Where can I get a copy of the VA Standard Operating Procedures?

A copy will be shared at the interview or it can be printed online at:

<http://www.dbhds.virginia.gov>



Review Process



Can I request a review of the ratings or scores?

Only the *Standard Operating Procedures* may be reviewed. The ratings and scores are not reviewable.



Review Process



I heard there might be change in scoring of the SIS®. Is this true?

No. The original version of SIS® and current versions are formatted differently. SIS-A® and SIS-C® are scored to be consistent with the original version of SIS®.



Review Process



Who assigns the level and tier? Can I calculate it myself?

DBHDS assigns the level and tier. The scoring formula is very precise and is computerized to eliminate human error.



Contact Information

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Thank You!

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