



# Support Intensity Scale (SIS-A) 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition FAQ

## What change is happening?

The Supports Intensity Scale - Adult Version® (SIS-A®) was first published as the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) in 2004 and was re-named the SIS-A (first edition) in 2015. The second edition of the SIS-A was released in January 2023 and includes updated norms as well as several enhancements.

## Where can I find more information on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition?

AAIDD are the authors of the SIS-A and you may visit their website to access and review their available resources which includes a summary of the changes, FAQ, and video.

<https://www.aidd.org/sis/sis-a/sis-a-2nd-edition>

## Why is this important to me?

People receiving specific Developmental Disabilities (DD) services in ND require a SIS-A assessment to be completed to determine their level of services and funding.

## How did the DD Section plan for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition?

- DD obtained a vendor, Optumas, from October 2023-August 2024 to identify how the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition may impact DD's budget calculator methodology by reviewing and analyzing SIS data from 1.1.18-5.31.24 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition Advanced Questions from 10.1.23-5.31.24.
- People receiving services voluntarily participated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition advanced questions between 10.1.23-5.31.24 for data collection and analysis purposes. The

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advanced questions consisted of the additional exceptional medical and behavioral questions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Participation had no affect/impact on their current SIS-A assessment results or service delivery.

- Information was presented during several public Steering Committee meetings. The committee meeting participants included people receiving services, service providers, advocacy organizations, and DD section employees.
- The vendor, Rushmore, who completes the SIS-A assessments for DD have completed training on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition.
- The integration with the 2nd Edition and the web-based case management system, Therap, has been completed.
- An information session was held by the DD Section and AAIDD on 12.10.24 to inform service providers, program managers, and other interested parties of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition transition activities.

## What changes can be expected beginning 1.1.25?

- The transition from SIS-A to SIS-A 2nd Edition is projected to have an average impact of <1 point per person. At this time, the DD Section will not be making adjustments to the budget calculator & will monitor.
- The Family Friendly version of the SIS-A results will be replaced by the Summary Report, which is a more user-friendly format.
- The Assessment Results Form (ARF) and Assessment Calculator have been updated to only reflect the renaming of assessment section headings.
- DD has updated policy and forms to align with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition changes. You may access the information on the DD website under Payment System at: [Information for DD Licensed Providers | Health and Human Services North Dakota](#)

**Important: Please use the updated SIS Policy, SIS Fact Sheet, ARF, and Assessment Calculator that is effective 1.1.25**

## What is the implementation timeline?

After 12.20.24, DD will stop using the previous SIS version and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition will be used beginning 1.1.25. This is a mass change, therefore, SIS assessments completed prior to 1.1.25 remain in effect until the 3-year due date. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition may be requested between the 3-year cycle based on criteria for an Out of Sequence Assessment.

12.10.24

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