

# 2022 Inter-rater Reliability (IRR) Study

## Bringing Greater Alignment to LTSS Processes Across Virginia

Beginning January 3, 2022, the Virginia Department of Medical Assistance (DMAS), in collaboration with Maximus, the vendor selected for this initiative, will launch an **Inter-rater reliability (IRR) study** – as mandated by the General Assembly. This study will verify the consistency and accuracy of the Medicaid Long Term Services and Support (LTSS) Functional Eligibility Screening process, including the Uniform Assessment Instrument (UAI).



### Defining the Purpose

This IRR study is designed to demonstrate that current LTSS screening practices:

- Consistently and reliably screen the level of care for children and adults
- Provide individuals across the Commonwealth the same opportunity to obtain services
- Identify the most integrated and appropriate setting choice, minimizing unnecessary institutional placements



### Understanding the Process

Activities to be undertaken include identifying potential areas of divergence, data collection, measurement, analysis, and reporting. Throughout the entire process, Maximus will collaborate with and report directly to DMAS, who will provide program oversight. The screening teams will also play a critical role. Their cooperation, understanding and participation in this study is critical for compliance with the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) recommendations for the program and its overall success.

### Maintaining Data Integrity and Minimizing Disruptions

DMAS is confident that your assistance will be given to Maximus, as they pursue study-related processes which, at times, will include their supplemental review of those previously screened and observation of real-time screenings.

Although the General Assembly has mandated an IRR study of Virginia's LTSS screening process, rest assured that **no part of this study will negatively impact a completed screening and no changes will be made to any previously completed screenings, outcomes, or services received.**

DMAS and Maximus also recognize the importance of minimizing disruptions to normal processes. While Maximus will need access to any original screening materials used to conduct a previous screen, or those available at the time of a new screen, we anticipate that by working together, this mandatory study will be conducted expeditiously and with minimal provider and individual impact.

## MEASURING IMPACT

The results of this instrument-focused initiative will be used to:

- Ensure reliability across different settings
- Determine baselines
- Assure confidence in the LTSS screening process

Study findings may also be used to inform best practices and training materials

As a valued partner in this process, DMAS recognizes and appreciates your ongoing commitment and partnership toward ensuring service excellence for Virginians. Be assured that ongoing transparency and updates will continue to be provided as the process moves forward.