

12/20/2021

New DMAS Program Implementation with State Partner, Maximus, Coming January 3

The Virginia Department of Medical Assistance (**DMAS**) has contracted with clinical services company, Maximus, to launch an **Inter-rater reliability (IRR)** study beginning on **Monday, January 3rd**.

The General Assembly has mandated this initiative as a review of Virginia's LTSS screening process. Once implemented, this study will demonstrate the degree of consistency and reliability of long-term care screenings for children and adults, verifying that the tools and training are effectively and consistently applied for the benefit of individuals across the Commonwealth, regardless of region or screener type.

VIRGINIA IRR - PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION >>> PROGRESS TRACKER



As the state prepares to implement this program, below are answers to some **key questions about the IRR study**, the project's timeline, as well as available supports and resources you might find helpful.

What is IRR?

IRR, or Inter-rater reliability, refers to the extent to which two or more individuals agree. The process will be used to evaluate the consistency of processes, rating decisions and outcomes. The study will validate the children's criteria and determine the consistency of screening across populations.

How will the study be conducted?

Individuals will be randomly selected across children, adults, regions.

How will rescreens be selected?

Rescreens will be randomly chosen from a statistically significant sample of conducted screens and analyzed based on assessment type (child vs. adult), region, and screening entity (NF, hospitals and CBTs).

How will the rescreening process work?

Maximus will conduct face-to-face screenings for the Baseline IRR Study using two techniques:

1. **Screen/Rescreen**—Entails repeating a subset of required questions within a short time frame after the initial screen. This will begin in January 2022
2. **Observational IRR** will include silently observing a live screen with the initial screener. This is expected to begin mid-year 2022.

Who will perform the secondary screening?

All screeners working with the IRR study meet or exceed requirements and will have taken and passed the VA LTSS modules.

How many individual screenings are estimated to go through a secondary screening?

Out of approximately 40,000 LTSS screenings a year Maximus anticipates sampling just over 3%

Will the secondary screenings affect findings from the initial screen?

No. DMAS and Maximus recognize the importance of minimizing disruptions to normal processes. This is a study only, and outcomes for individuals will not change. 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.

What are key dates ahead for this initiative?

There are a few milestone dates to keep in mind for the IRR study including:

- IRR activities (screen/rescreen) will begin on January 3, 2022
- Observational IRR-related activities will take place mid-late 2022
- Baseline study recommendations due in the fall of 2022

How will the study results be used?

At the close of the IRR study, the results of this instrument-focused initiative will serve as a foundation for several important next steps:

- Ensure reliability across different settings
- Assure confidence in the LTSS screening process
- Inform best practices and develop training materials (if required)

What will Maximus need from screeners?

Maximus may contact you to request certain information and copies of the supporting documentation you used during the original screen.

Are we to add Maximus to our consent to exchange information, or are they covered under DMAS?

Maximus is included in Business Associate Agreement (BAA) for DMAS.

Should initial screenings be faxed to Maximus?

No, the initial screening should not be faxed or emailed to Maximus.

Program Support

Ensuring that stakeholders across the Commonwealth have access to the information they need about the IRR study will remain a critical goal throughout this process. The Help Desk contacts and supports shown below are now available for any questions regarding IRR study processes, next steps and expectations. Communication updates and will be shared by the state and Maximus as the study moves forward in the months ahead.

Help Desk Contacts

VAIRR@maximus.com | 833.73 VAIRR (833.738.2477)

Virginia IRR Program Overview

[Download a one-page overview](#) here to learn more.

About Maximus

Maximus is nationally recognized for its work with states across the country to manage complex programs and ensure that individuals receive the appropriate care and supports necessary to improve their quality of life. Enduring commitment to process innovation and service excellence has led the company to a role as the industry's leading provider of high-quality, conflict free assessment services for persons with intellectual, behavioral health, and developmental disabilities, as well as older adults and individuals with physical disabilities and complex medical conditions. Learn more about Maximus services and capabilities at: <https://maximus.com/clinical-services>