

Acuity-Based Rates Overview

September 2025

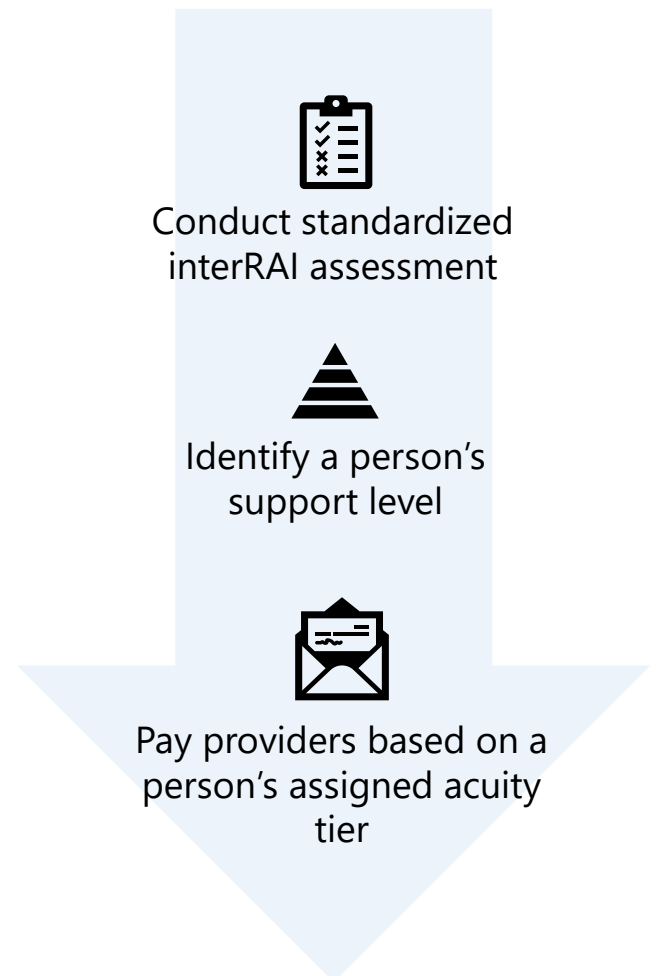
Acuity-Based Rates Overview

As part of the Waiver Modernization project, DODD is updating **how providers are paid. We evaluated other states’ approaches and talked with providers**, and decided **to update both our billing system and how we pay for services**. The goal is to simplify how providers are paid and keep up with changes across the country.

You may have heard that we are **using new needs-based assessment tools, called the interRAI-Intellectual Disability (InterRAI-ID) and Child and Youth Mental Health and Developmental Disability (ChYMH-DD)**. The interRAI assessments will replace the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Profile (ODDP) and Acuity Assessment Instrument (AAI) for people on the IO, Level One, and SELF waivers. The interRAI-ID and ChYMH-DD are standardized assessments that will help us to better understand a person’s needs.

The **new assessment will help identify each person’s support level**. A support level will show how much assistance someone needs based on their answers to the assessment questions.

Support levels will be matched to provider payment tiers. These tiers will determine how much providers are paid. **This process is called acuity-based rate reimbursement**. Acuity-based rates reimburse providers according to the intensity of a person’s needs. This allows the rate to reflect the amount of support provided and staff specialty or expertise.



Acuity-Based Rates Details

State Examples

Many other states are moving to or use an acuity-based payment model. Please see below for state examples.



Iowa’s acuity tiers are based on the results of the interRAI-ID and ChYMH-DD assessments. Adults are assigned to one of six tiers, and children and youth are assigned to one of three tiers. The tiered rates apply to a subset of services including Daily Supported Community Living (SCL), Full Day Habilitation, Full day Adult Day Care, and Residential Based Supported Community Living (SCL).



Virginia uses the Supports Intensity Scale (SIS) assessment data to create ‘tiered’ rates for residential and day habilitation services. People are assigned to one of six or seven support tiers based on assessment results, which align with four reimbursement tiers.



Nebraska uses tiered rate structures for Day Supports and Community Integration services. The reimbursement for services is tiered based on a participant’s level of service need as determined by their level of care tool, the interRAI-ID and ChYMH-DD assessments.

Building Ohio's Acuity-Based Rates

Currently in Ohio, **providers bill and are paid through add-ons to reflect acuity**. The future state of acuity-based rates aims to **remove add-ons, and additional add-on assessments, by automatically including them in the rate**.



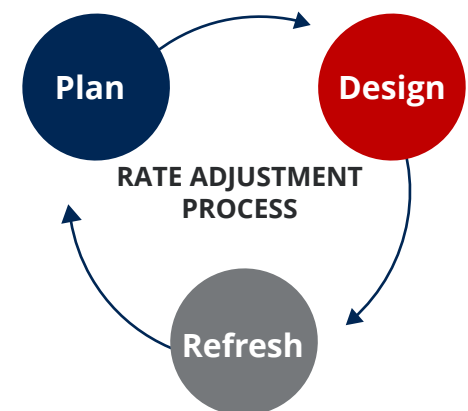
To build Ohio-specific acuity-based rates, we will need to collect data from our new interRAI assessment that will start in 2026. Until then, our Waiver Modernization team will be **engaging a provider workgroup** to shape the future state of acuity-based rates.

The group will work together to build a plan that works for DODD systems and partners. From there, the team will use data collected from interRAI assessments and previous service utilization to update how we pay providers. This will help us **match someone's current services to the new assessment results**.

Once acuity-based rates are developed, the Waiver Modernization team will use a phased approach to implement acuity-based rates. The team plans to **begin with the HPC and on-site on call (OSOC) services** when people share services at home for phase one.

As more data is collected, the team will continue to refresh rates to make sure they make sense for Ohio.

In the future, provider reimbursement for multiple services will be based on someone's interRAI support level.



Risk Mitigation

We are developing a detailed risk mitigation strategy to reduce impacts to people served, providers, and funding. Our goal is to minimize changes to services for people served and provider payments while improving service delivery and simplifying billing.

Next Steps

The implementation of acuity-based rates will take time and collaboration across multiple stakeholder groups. We plan to share more details with the public as they become available.

In the meantime, please reach out to our email inbox redesign@dodd.ohio.gov with any specific questions, tune into our live webinars, and keep an eye out for upcoming email communications.

