UNIVERSAL CONSUMER INFORMATION TOOL
Frequently Asked Questions

1. When will the UCIT be required to be used?
    a. October 1, 2024

2. If we have the technology, will the UCIT be available for providers to use on October 1, 2024?
    a. Yes

3. When will the paper form be available to print?
    a. September 26, 2024

4. Do providers need to create new policies and procedures to come into compliance with the use of the UCIT?
    a. Providers will be receiving guidance from their respective AAA regarding this requirement.

5. Are assessments are moving to annual an annual basis?
    a. Beginning on October 1, 2024, consumer assessment/reassessments are to be completed on an annual basis <u>unless there is a life changing event</u>. For example, if an older adult falls or is hospitalized and discharged with a plan that they would need to be reassessed sooner than the annual timeline. Policies and procedures will need to be updated to reflect this change.

6. What is meant by "live assessment"?
    a. The Department is requiring that all assessment/reassessment be done in person with the consumer. Giving the consumer a paper form to fill out themselves is not an acceptable practice.

7. Why is the Social Security Number missing on the UCIT?
    a. The Social Security Number and date of birth is being eliminated to ensure the confidentiality of personal identity data.

8. What will the consumer ID be?
    a. The consumer ID will be a system generated ID number.

9. How is this going to be implemented?
   a. A new consumer will receive the system generated ID number when they are first assessed.
   b. An existing consumer will receive the system generated ID number when they are reassessed.

10. What is the difference between I&R and I&A? Do these services need to be counted separately?
    a. Information and Assistance (I&A) is defined in the Older Americans Act as a service that provides the individuals with current information on opportunities and services available to the individuals within their communities, including information relating to assistive technology; assesses the problems and capacities of the individuals; links the individuals to the opportunities and services that are available; to the maximum extent practicable, ensures that the individuals receive the services needed by the individuals, and are aware of the opportunities available to the individuals, by establishing adequate follow-up procedures; and serves the entire community of older individuals, particularly — older individuals with greatest social need; older individuals with greatest economic need; and older individuals at risk for institutional placement.
    b. Information & Referral (I&R) is not mentioned in the OAA. I&A and I&R have traditionally been used in the Aging Network interchangeably. The definition of I&A is broad enough to encompass the simpler work of I&R, thus, these activities should be counted as one.

11. Why are there more questions compared to the current assessment forms we are using?
    a. The UCIT is made up of required questions from the Administration for Community Living and required questions from the State of New Mexico.
    b. The number of questions on the assessment form required to be answered is dependent on the service that the consumer is receiving or is being assessed to receive.

12. What is a RUCA code?
    a. Type of developed environment in which the consumer lives as defined by the rural-urban commuting area (RUCA) codes defined at the zip code level.

13. Will there be a Spanish language version of the UCIT?
    a. The Department is checking on this.

14. Is it mandatory to get the Medicare/Medicaid number?
    a. This is to be collected if the service provided requires it. Providers will receive guidance on this from their funding agency.

15. Can the assessment responses and notes ever be requested by family members (i.e., they are trying to put them in a home or get guardianship)?
    a. No

16. Are all services available in all counties?
    a. No

17. Will the last assessment populate on the next assessment?
    a. Yes

18. Is there still a rating scale in consumer notes?
    a. When the UCIT is completed electronically, the scoring will automatically be completed.
    b. The AAAs are responsible for providing a rating scale on the printed forms.

19. With congregate meals and transportation will you need to do Nutrition Health Assessment, ADLs and IADLs?
    a. For congregate meals, the Nutrition Health Assessment as well as demographic information must be completed.
    b. For transportation, a minimum amount of information is required to be collected. **(First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name, Date of Birth)**

20. What does sexual orientation have to do with receiving services?
    a. This is a state required question.

21. Why do we use the same packet for caregivers as for care receivers?
    a. Electronically, the UCIT has built in "skip" technology, when a caregiver needs to be assessed, the person conducting the assessment will be able to answer if the person is a caregiver and the tool will automatically "skip" to the appropriate section. For the paper form, the assessor will answer the assessment question and then move to the caregiver section. **(Section 3 of the UCIT)**

22. How will more frequent reassessment be handled if the care plan end dates are for a year?
    a. If an individual needs to be reassessed prior to a year, the reassessment date will trigger the start of a new year.

23. Is there a target date for completing assessments/reassessments electronically?
    a. The implementation of the UCIT electronically is a phased approach.

24. What if the consumer doesn't have email, can we put N/A?
    a. Yes

25. Why did the scoring change?
    a. The scoring for determining ADLs and IADLs changed because the Department decided to use evidence-based tools to collect the ADL and IADL information.

26. Are the new forms going to be for all programs?
    a. Yes

27. Are services available for consumers **who** are living in assisted living housing?
    a. This is a question that will need to be answered on an individual basis with the appropriate AAA.