



# Vulnerable and High Risk Participant

## Vulnerable and High Risk Participant

The IRIS program’s definition of vulnerable and high risk is a participant who is dependent on a single caregiver or two or more caregivers—all of whom are related to the participant or all of whom are related to one another—to provide or arrange for the provision of nutrition, fluids, or medical treatment that is necessary to sustain life. At least one of the following must also apply to the participant:

- Is nonverbal and unable to communicate feelings or preferences.
- Is unable to make decisions independently.
- Is clinically complex, requiring a variety of skilled services or high utilization of medical equipment.
- Is medically frail.

### 1. Vulnerable and High Risk Policy

#### a. Description

IRIS consultants (ICs) are required to assess if participants meet the vulnerable and high risk definition and the level of vulnerability and risk factors for abuse and neglect in the participant’s personal life or finances based on this definition. This assessment must be completed at least once per year with the annual plan and when there is a significant change in condition.

If a participant meets the definition of vulnerable and high risk participant (VHRP), the IC must assist the participant and legal decision maker in identifying all potential risks and provide education on risk reduction strategies.

When an IC has determined the participant meets the VHRP definition, the IC shall implement additional oversight including all of the following:

- In-person visits with the participant every other month.
- In-person visits in the participant’s home once every 6 months, which may be combined with the every other month in-person visit.

ICs must document in a case note that this assessment has been completed at least once per year with the annual plan and when there is a significant change. The case note must specifically state whether the individual meets or does not meet the VHRP definition.

If the participant does meet the VHRP definition, the [Vulnerable/High Risk Determination – IRIS Program, F02879](#) must be completed and uploaded into WISITS. This form must be completed at least once per year or if the participant has significant change.

#### b. Procedures

### Identifying and Documenting Vulnerable and High Risk Status for Participants

Step	Responsible Partner(s)	Detail
1	IC	Assess if the participant meets the VHRP definition and the level of vulnerability and risk factors for abuse and neglect in the participant’s personal life or finances based on this definition at least once per year.

Step	Responsible Partner(s)	Detail
2	IC	Document in a case note that this assessment has been completed at least once per year and when there is a significant change.
3	IC	If the participant does meet the VHRP definition, complete the <a href="#">Vulnerable/High Risk Determination – IRIS Program, F02879</a> and upload it into WISITS.
4	IC	Consult as needed with the IRIS nurse consultant on skilled services or high utilization of medical equipment.

## 2. Resources

[Vulnerable/High Risk Determination – IRIS Program, F02879](#)