

# Implementing the New interRAI Home Care Assessment System



## What is the interRAI HC?

The interRAI Home Care (interRAI HC) © is part of interRAI's new [integrated suite of assessments](#) that use common assessment items and standardized language to support continuity of care across health care settings, such as home care, continuing care, mental health, community health and palliative care. Based on rigorous research, these new assessments are being adopted to flag health risks and to guide comprehensive, person-centred care planning and services around the world. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), in partnership with interRAI, supports the implementation of the interRAI HC assessment system in Canada.

## What are the benefits of using an interRAI assessment?

- Comprehensive; focuses on a person's functioning, cognitive and mental health, quality of life, services and clinical management
- Provides clinicians with real-time feedback for care planning
- Promotes consistent communication for the individual and the clinical population
- Is designed to be repeated over time to support outcome-based measures of the quality of care a person receives, support clinical benchmarking and provide insight into organizational performance

## What has been enhanced in the interRAI HC assessment system?

When compared with the RAI-Home Care (RAI-HC) ©,

- Simplified terms, common definitions and coding options make the items easier to understand and use
- Expanded response sets improve assessment accuracy
- Reduced number of items makes it shorter to complete
- New items have been added to increase clinical relevance
- Outcome scales have been refined and new ones introduced

## Are the interRAI HC decision-support tools comparable with those in the RAI-HC?

The interRAI HC offers similar applications to support decision-making at the point of care and at the organizational level. These applications — the interRAI Clinical Assessment Protocols (CAPs), outcome scales, quality indicators and case mix systems — are designed to be comparable with those in the RAI-HC to allow for reliable continuity in reporting when transitioning to the new assessment.

## How is CIHI supporting the use of the interRAI HC?

CIHI is committed to supporting its stakeholders by providing detailed specifications for use in Canada, comprehensive education and client support programs to sustain implementation, reporting and analysis using the interRAI HC assessment.

CIHI has developed an improved model to capture data from interRAI HC assessments and other instruments from the new interRAI suite using a single system. The Integrated interRAI Reporting System (IRRS) improves the data flow by introducing

- Near real-time validation and submission of assessment data at the point of care
- Improved data quality, timeliness and efficiency
- State-of-the-art messaging standards (e.g., [HL7](#)) to improve sharing of the information with other data systems and across settings

## Interested in implementing the interRAI HC?

Check out CIHI's [interRAI Implementation Toolkit](#) for useful tips, resources and information for organizations and jurisdictions as they embark on implementing an interRAI assessment system. Topics include

- Assessing readiness and managing change
- Choosing a software vendor
- Training staff and building capacity within your organization to complete and manage the assessments
- Reporting data to CIHI and using your data strategically

For assistance in implementing an assessment from the integrated suite or for general questions about the new system, please email [help@cihi.ca](mailto:help@cihi.ca).

