The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is excited to announce that the new Integrated interRAI Reporting System (IRRS) is open for business. IRRS represents a new integrated way of producing, connecting and reporting health information in the home care, long-term care, and child and youth mental health sectors and supports the achievement of better outcomes across the continuum of care.

What are the benefits of using the integrated interRAI assessment suite?

- Simplified terms, and common definitions and coding options, make items easier to understand and use.
- Fewer items (for home and long-term care) make it shorter to complete.
- More consistent use of a 3-day observation period improves comparability across assessments in the suite.
- Expanded response sets improve assessment accuracy.
- New items increase clinical relevance.
- Outcome scales have been refined and new ones introduced.

Which assessments does the new system support?

- interRAI Home Care
- interRAI Long-Term Care Facilities
- interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health — Community-Based/In-Patient/Screener

What are the advantages of the new reporting system?

- It captures comprehensive, standardized data about a person’s functioning, cognitive and mental health, quality of life, services received and clinical management to support point-of-care, organizational and system decisions. Collect once, use many times!
- It allows users to submit administrative and/or assessment data to CIHI almost instantaneously and receive immediate validated feedback at the point of care to assist with care planning and quality improvement initiatives.
- It has automated functionality to submit, query, correct, update and delete data and to transfer clients from one organization to another.
• It allows users to query the CIHI system and display results to end users for their operational needs in almost real time.
• It aids the movement of health care information within health organizations via the adoption of modern data exchange standards.
• It facilitates the integration and use of common standardized languages/concepts to improve the ability to follow a person’s health care information across settings. This will encourage continuity of care and increase the chances of improved health outcomes.

Who will use the new system?

Several jurisdictions across Canada are currently implementing these new instruments and some plan to start submitting data to CIHI in 2019. CIHI is working with these jurisdictions and their software vendors to support the adoption of these new interRAI instruments.

Organizations and jurisdictions that plan to implement or transition to 1 or more of the new instruments supported by IRRS should contact their software vendor about their ability to support these new instruments and the IRRS specifications.

How can CIHI help?

CIHI’s interRAI Implementation Toolkit contains useful tips and resources for organizations and jurisdictions as they start implementing an interRAI assessment system. CIHI has also developed education material and other resources to help organizations and jurisdictions understand and use the interRAI assessment system. If you have general questions about the new assessment instruments and reporting system, please contact us at help@cihi.ca.

Vendors interested in supporting the assessment systems in Canada need to be licensed with interRAI and CIHI. IRRS specifications for the interRAI Home Care, interRAI Long-Term Care Facilities and interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health instruments are available. Once a vendor passes CIHI’s conformance testing, data from its client sites can start flowing to CIHI.

How will this affect HCRS and CCRS?

As organizations and jurisdictions transition to the new assessment instruments for home care and long-term care and participate in IRRS, CIHI will develop a plan to retire the Home Care Reporting System (HCRS), which supports the RAI-HC, and the Continuing Care Reporting System (CCRS), which supports the RAI-MDS 2.0. It is expected that HCRS and CCRS will be decommissioned within the next 5 years. During this time, CIHI will continue to support the data submission process for HCRS and CCRS.