



CIHI's Integrated interRAI Reporting System (May 2022)

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is excited to announce that the Integrated interRAI Reporting System (IRRS) is open for business and accepting interRAI LTCF data from New Brunswick and Saskatchewan. IRRS represents an integrated way of producing, connecting and reporting health information in the home care and long-term care 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 IRRS support?

- interRAI Home Care (interRAI HC)
- interRAI Long-Term Care Facilities (interRAI LTCF)
- interRAI Contact Assessment (interRAI CA)

What are the advantages of IRRS?

- It captures comprehensive, standardized data about a person's functioning, cognition, quality of life, services received and clinical management to support point-of-care, organizational and system decisions.
- 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 IRRS?

Several jurisdictions across Canada are currently implementing these new instruments. CIHI started receiving interRAI LTCF data through IRRS in 2019, and it is anticipated that interRAI HC data will start flowing later this year. CIHI is working with a number of provinces and territories to support the transition to or adoption of these new interRAI instruments in home care and long-term care.

Organizations and jurisdictions that plan to implement or transition to one of the instruments supported by IRRS should contact CIHI to discuss their project plans.

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 specializedcare@cihi.ca.

Software vendors interested in supporting the assessment systems in Canada need to be licensed with [interRAI](#) and [CIHI](#). IRRS specifications for the interRAI HC, interRAI LTCF and interRAI CA instruments are available by emailing help@cihi.ca. 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. During this time, CIHI will continue to support the data submission process for HCRS and CCRS; however, CIHI is working toward retiring the older systems. An exact date for that has not yet been determined.



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How to cite this document:

Canadian Institute for Health Information. *CIHI's Integrated interRAI Reporting System (May 2022)*. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2022.