

interRAI NZ Governance Board

Position Statement on interRAI and casemix in New Zealand

Background - What is casemix?

Casemix refers to the range and type of patients treated by a hospital or other health services. A system of output groupings are used based on the clinical coding for the admission or other health service contact and possibly other characteristics of the patient or the event. The concept of casemix is very general and can apply to a wide selection of health services. Examples include hospital admissions for medical or surgical events and resource planning based on indexing of the results of assessments of functional capability (interRAI).

The purpose of casemix is to classify people into groups that are similar in care needs so that the costs of services and supports required within each group are similar. Casemix is a useful way of describing the pathways of people using health services and their likely resource use. The value of which is to allow pathways to be developed based on best evidence. Casemix also enables quality frameworks to be developed, resource intensive caseloads to be identified and more appropriate funding mechanisms to be established.

The National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) is a major source of information for casemix systems and plays a significant role in the planning of health services for New Zealand.

Casemix systems are well established in hospital based health services.

Case Mix and interRAI

There are challenges in establishing a casemix system for services delivered in the community. Some of the challenges being the range of services provided, the collection of standardised information, length of episodes of care and the availability of informal care. Casemix tools for Home and Community services have been developed in New Zealand but to date non have been used on a national basis.

The implementation of standardised interRAI assessment tools across home and community services and aged residential care for older people in New Zealand has facilitated the opportunity to use or develop a single standardised casemix system to assist with:

- funding formulae
- resource or staffing plans
- benchmarking and
- evaluation

InterRAI NZ Governance Board Position on casemix

The interRAI NZ Governance Board (the Board) supports the development of a single case mix system across the services where interRAI assessment is currently in place that is home and community care and aged residential care services for older people.

The Board encourages the development of a single standardised casemix system using interRAI data to increase equity, improve quality and reduce disparity across New Zealand in the delivery of home and community and aged residential care services to older people.

The Board supports the development of a single standardised casemix system using interRAI data where the system is to be used in a fair, equitable and transparent manner.

The Board supports the development of a single standardised casemix system using interRAI data where the focus is on improving the quality of home and community care and aged residential care service delivery.

The Board supports the development of a single standardised casemix system using only New Zealand interRAI data.

The Board supports the development of a single standardised casemix system using interRAI data, where the interRAI data algorithm is standardised, consistent and controlled at a national level.

If a single standardised casemix system using interRAI data is developed the Board expects the algorithm to be subject to publicised research and peer review and be publically available.