

Fact Sheet – Introducing the interRAI Palliative Care Assessment

interRAI Services will offer Palliative Care Assessment training for competent Home Care assessors from September 2017.

The Palliative Care assessment can be used for palliative clients in your community, hospice or hospital who would normally have had a Home Care assessment within your DHB's model of care.

Pre-training

- Managers will confirm that assessors are interRAI Home Care competent and have completed their Advance Care Plan Level One training, either within their DHB or online.
- To complete Advance Care Plan training go to www.advancecareplanning.org.nz/healthcare/ then click the tab Take me to E-learning – register and complete the training.

Training

- Are you interested in this training? Please email interRAI@tas.health.nz
- You will then be emailed a learning agreement for managers and trainees to sign and return to interRAI@tas.health.nz
- Your interRAI Educator will be in touch with you to coordinate a date, time and venue.
- Training will be delivered in manageable groups and will take approximately two hours.
- The person requesting the training provides/organises the venue.
- If possible it will be helpful to have a local palliative care expert with you for this training. This will allow your local assessors to have further discussions and guidance on the topic “asking the difficult questions”/ how to have a conversation in the palliative care context.

Competency

- Assessors will complete a minimum of one palliative care assessment which will be reviewed by their educator.
- Assessors will also complete a single online evaluation in addition to their current evaluation requirements.
- Usual annual competency requirements will follow.

Benefits of using the interRAI Palliative Care Assessment tool

- It is fit for purpose – assessment items focus on needs of palliative care clients with a particular emphasis on symptom management, psychosocial and spiritual issues, and carer stress. The assessment supports specialist care planning for individual clients.
- Acceptable – to clients and assessors, the assessment has been shown to take less time to complete which allows increased time for extended conversations with the client and their family.
- Helpful to improve the quality of care and support for clients with a palliative care diagnosis, using the guidance of a palliative specific Clinical Assessment Protocol (CAP) manual.
- The tool is internationally validated for this client group. All DHBs will be able to share common language, common clinical concepts and use common measures for this client group.
- Palliative Care population data is available to inform service delivery and quality initiatives at local, regional and national levels.

Please note that interRAI Services will monitor the system to ensure that only Home Care assessors who have completed and passed the Palliative Care training, complete Palliative Care assessments, to support managers with meeting the terms of the interRAI Governance Board's approval for the use of the assessment in New Zealand.