

interRAI assessment protocols

Endorsed by the Health of Older people (HOP) Steering Group 14 August 2019

Key protocols for using interRAI clinical assessments

- The Ministry of Health (MoH) holds the unlimited user licence with interRAI international for the use of all interRAI assessment instruments in New Zealand. interRAI Services, part of TAS, runs the interRAI assessment system in this country.
- The interRAI New Zealand Governance Board, appointed by the Director General of Health, is the body responsible for quality assurance.
- The Board sets direction for the use of the interRAI assessment system in New Zealand. It supports interRAI assessment information being available to a wide range of health and social care professionals at the point of care delivery.
- interRAI assessment information is accessed via this website: www.interRAI.co.nz

The interRAI New Zealand Governance Board directs that:

1. All interRAI assessments are completed and coded as per the internationally standardised user manuals. New Zealand standards are aligned with these international standards. This helps ensure the integrity of the information used to inform care plans is appropriate, and ensures the aggregated data used for research and planning purposes is accurate.
2. To be eligible for training to use an interRAI assessment the candidate must be a health professional for whom assessment is part of their scope of practice, and have a current New Zealand Annual Practising Certificate (APC) or their health discipline equivalent.
3. Assessors who trained overseas in interRAI must demonstrate that they meet New Zealand interRAI assessment competency standards.
4. Health professionals completing interRAI assessments must have endorsed competency for the relevant assessment instrument. They must maintain their interRAI competency or risk having their access to the software downgraded or removed.
5. interRAI assessors are guided by the recognised processes detailed in the “Which assessment to use and when to use it” document (Appendix 1). This helps guide which clinical assessment to use when assessing older people. This includes assessments for long-term funded support services, such as home-based support services, respite care, palliative care, carer support services or residential care.
6. All assessments require direct face to face conversation with the person and the primary support person (if available), observation of the person, communication with other members of the clinical team, and review of medical records and available documents. The exception is instances where a Contact Assessment is used over the phone and a specific protocol is

applied. (see Appendix 2).

7. An interRAI assessment is the primary assessment instrument used in community and aged residential care facilities. The assessment summary is the main reference source for care planning for an individual and discussion with the care team.
8. The interRAI Palliative Care Assessment is approved as an alternative to a Home Care Assessment or a Community Health Assessment and the Functional Supplement with adults who have a palliative care diagnosis, and or a recorded clinical prognosis of a year or less to live. This can be at home or in a community-based hospice or palliative care programme.

interRAI training for allied health professionals or enrolled nurses in residential care settings

9. It is beneficial for allied health professionals to be involved in or contribute to Long-Term Care Assessments of older people.
10. The interRAI New Zealand Governance Board supports interRAI training for registered health professionals.
11. Health of Older People (HOP) portfolio managers may request training in Long-Term Care Assessments for registered health professionals. This is on condition they will support the trainee. There must be a documented process within the care facility aligned to the training which is available to auditors as required.
12. Enrolled nurses are eligible to undertake a Long-Term Care assessment provided they meet the prerequisites established by the Nursing Council of New Zealand that is; have assessment as part of their scope of practice and are overseen by an interRAI competent registered nurse.

Appendix 1: [Which assessment to use and when to use it](#)

Appendix 2: [Contact Assessment Telephone Protocol](#)

Appendix 3: [Assessing Community People who are in hospital less than 90 days](#)

Appendix 4: [Position Statement on interRAI and case mix in New Zealand](#)

Appendix 5: [interRAI data access protocols](#)

Appendix 6: [Assessing adults using the Palliative Care Assessment who are in an inpatient setting less than 90 days](#)