



# Implementing the interRAI Long-Term Care Facilities Assessment System

## What is the interRAI LTCF?

The interRAI Long-Term Care Facilities (interRAI LTCF) © is part of interRAI's [integrated suite of assessments](#) that use common assessment items and standardized language to support continuity of care across health care settings, such as home care, continuing care, mental health, community health and palliative care. Based on rigorous research, these assessments are being adopted to flag health risks and to guide comprehensive, person-centred care planning and services around the world. The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), in partnership with interRAI, supports the implementation of the interRAI LTCF assessment system in Canada.

## What are the benefits of using an interRAI assessment?

- Comprehensive; focuses on a person's functioning, cognitive and mental health, quality of life, services and clinical management

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Supports benchmarking and provides insight into organizational performance

## What has been enhanced in the interRAI LTCF assessment system?

When compared with the RAI–Minimum Data Set 2.0 (RAI-MDS 2.0) ©,

- Reduced number of items makes it shorter to complete
- The observation period for the assessment is consistently 3 days
- Simplified terms, common definitions and coding options make the items easier to understand and use
- Expanded response sets improve assessment accuracy
- New items have been added to increase clinical relevance
- Outcome scales have been refined and new ones introduced

## Have the outcome scales changed?

The interRAI LTCF offers new outcome scales at the point of care. The following new outcome scales are produced when the interRAI LTCF is completed:

- Deafblind Severity Index (DbSI) Scale: Summarizes the measure of impairment in hearing and vision
- Communication Scale: Summarizes a person’s ability to communicate with others and to comprehend information
- Fracture Risk Scale (FRS): Identifies a person at risk for hip fractures within 1 year
- Revised Index of Social Engagement (RISE): Summarizes the person’s sense of initiative and social engagement within the facility

## Are the interRAI LTCF decision-support tools comparable with those in the RAI-MDS 2.0?

The interRAI LTCF outputs are designed to be comparable with those in the RAI-MDS 2.0 to allow for reliable continuity in reporting when transitioning to the new assessment.

The transition to the interRAI LTCF does mean changes, however. There are inherent differences

