Webinar 1: Overview of CIHI and the Home Care Program

Canadian Institute for Health Information

January 28, 2026, 10:00am MT

Agenda

1. Webinar Overview
2. Speakers
3. About CIHI
4. Collaborating with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples
5. interRAI and CIHI partnership
6. Benefits of the interRAI HC assessments (including outputs)
7. Discussion / Q&A

Webinar 1: Overview of CIHI and the Home Care Program

Session Description:

This introductory session provides an **overview of the Canadian Institute for Health Information** (CIHI), its mandate, and its **work in collaborating with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples** to advance their health data priorities, including measuring cultural safety and Indigenous-specific racism in health systems and respecting Indigenous Data Sovereignty. Participants will **learn about the interRAI partnership, Home Care (HC) and Contact Assessment (CA) tools**, and how **data flows through** the Integrated interRAI Reporting System (**IRRS**).

This session establishes the foundation for understanding how home care data is collected, protected, and used.

Learning Outcomes:

➢ CIHI's role, mandate, and the work of the Indigenous Health Branch

➢ The IRRS systems and the interRAI assessment tools used in Home Care and Contact Assessment

➢ How standardized assessment tools support community-driven home care services

Speakers

Karennahá:wi McComber, Director, Indigenous Health – Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
Karennahá:wi McComber is a Kanien'kehá:ka of Kahnawake, 1 of 7 custodian territories of the Eastern Door of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. She is a certified First Nations Health Manager with a background in early childcare administration and public administration and Indigenous governance, and has 24 years of experience working within community, regional and national portfolios.

Joseph Emmanuel Amuah, Manager, Indigenous Health – Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
Joseph Emmanuel Amuah is grateful to live on ancestral lands of the Algonquin Nation, otherwise known as Ottawa. He is the Manager of Indigenous Health at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Joseph's work lies in leading teams to develop and deliver contextually relevant health information products in alignment with the health and wellness data priorities of First Nations, Inuit and Métis partners.

Maria Klar, Clinical Specialist – Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI)
Maria Klar has been a clinical specialist at CIHI for the past 7 years. Maria is currently helping support the pan-Canadian transition to the newer interRAI suite of instruments and provides education to both home care and long-term care nurses on completing these assessments. Maria's background includes working in long-term care, home care, and the government of Alberta Ministry of Health before moving to CIHI.

Land acknowledgement

As CIHI works toward better health for all people in Canada, we acknowledge that we live and work on the traditional territories of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples. Our work is grounded in cultural safety and humility, respectful engagement, and Indigenous-driven processes and partnerships.
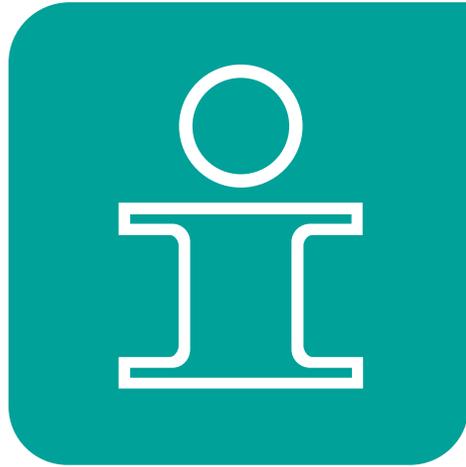
The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) is an independent, not-for-profit organization that provides essential information on Canada's health systems and the health of Canadians.

# The world's best health systems are powered by data.

CIHI is a vital source of Canada-wide health data that Canadians rely on to inform health policy, care, management and research. It's our job to ensure that health data is trusted, connected, accessible, timely, contextualized, relevant and comprehensive.

We are building a future where every Canadian gets the care they need — when and where they need it.

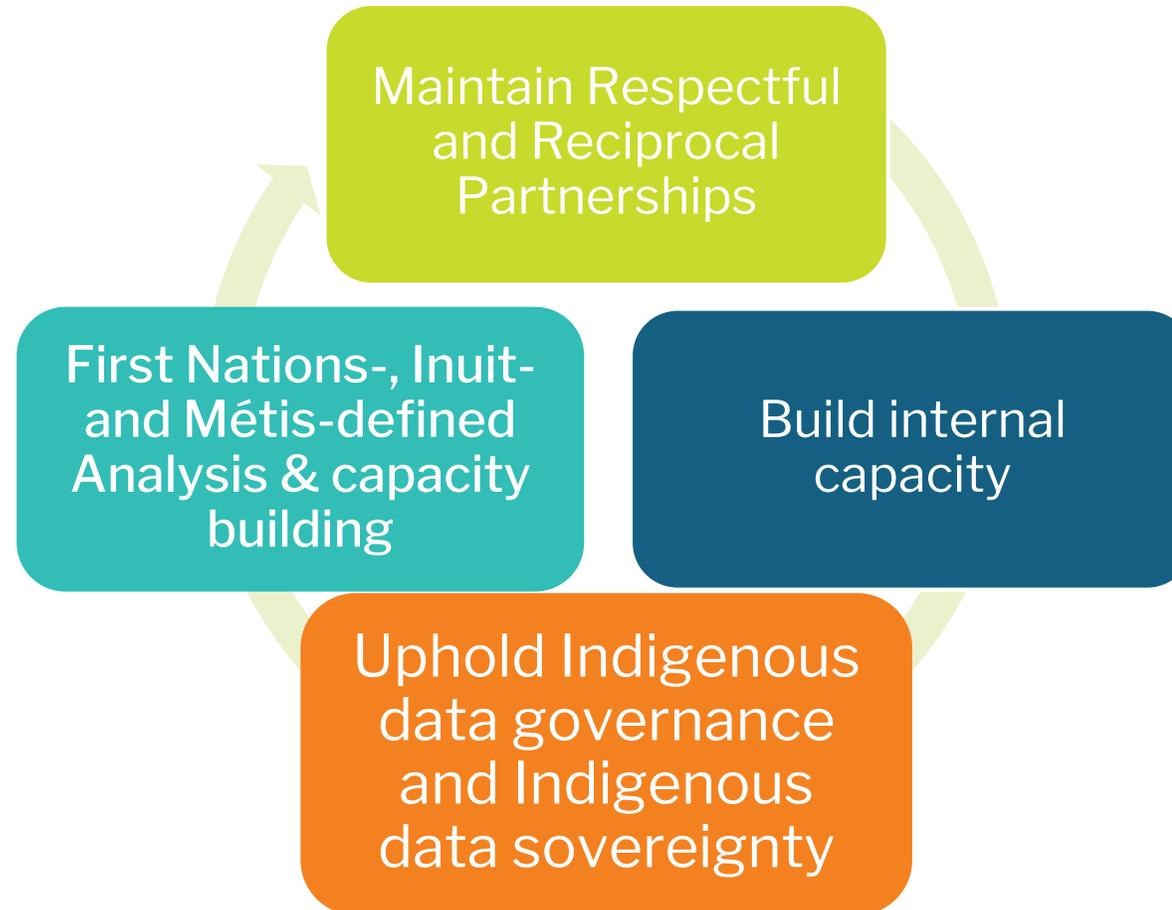**Better data. Better decisions. Healthier Canadians.**

CIHI

- For over 30 years, CIHI has earned the trust of health systems as the main gatherer, packager and disseminator of pan-Canadian health information.

  — Our long-standing relationships with federal and provincial/territorial governments, as well as with national and international partners across the health sector, are built on credibility, data quality and relevance.
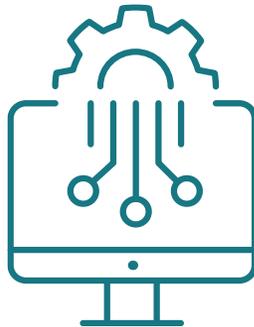
- CIHI has its finger on the pulse of what matters most to Canadians and is actively closing critical data gaps to help address the country's most pressing health care challenges.

- We're continuously modernizing our tools and embracing digital innovation to meet the growing demand for timely, integrated and actionable insights.

  — Our work is changing to keep pace with the health systems we serve.

First Nations, Inuit and Métis Health at CIHI

Indigenous Health Priorities

Maintain Respectful and Reciprocal Partnerships

Build internal capacity

First Nations-, Inuit- and Métis-defined Analysis & capacity building

Uphold Indigenous data governance and Indigenous data sovereignty

Educational Products

Educational Products

5006E-First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Health learning bundles (Mandatory for CIHI staff)

- 1223-Our Shared Colonial History

- 1224E-Colonialism as a Social Determinant of Health

- 1225E-Indigenous Worldviews, Data Sovereignty and Data Governance

1385E/F - Respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis Data Sovereignty (2025)

- Highlights how upholding Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles is essential to advancing equity, reconciliation and ultimately health transformation.

- Teaches to recognize data as a living part of Indigenous self-determination and reflect on how data sovereignty principles can inform our work.

Educational Products (Upcoming)

FN Listening Circle to develop tools to support FN Communities to access Data

- To respectfully engage FNIM Community Health Managers, Community-based Health Researchers and CIHI-Data Users in a dialogue to:

— Understand the needs and challenges related to accessing and understanding CIHI's data from the FNIM community-perspective

— Identify how to reframe existing CIHI resources in a way that supports FNIM knowledge systems, self-determination and community use.

— Lead the visioning of a reference guide to CIHI data and analytical process that is relevant, FNIM user-friendly and helps build community capacity.

Indigenous Identifiable Data Policy & Updates
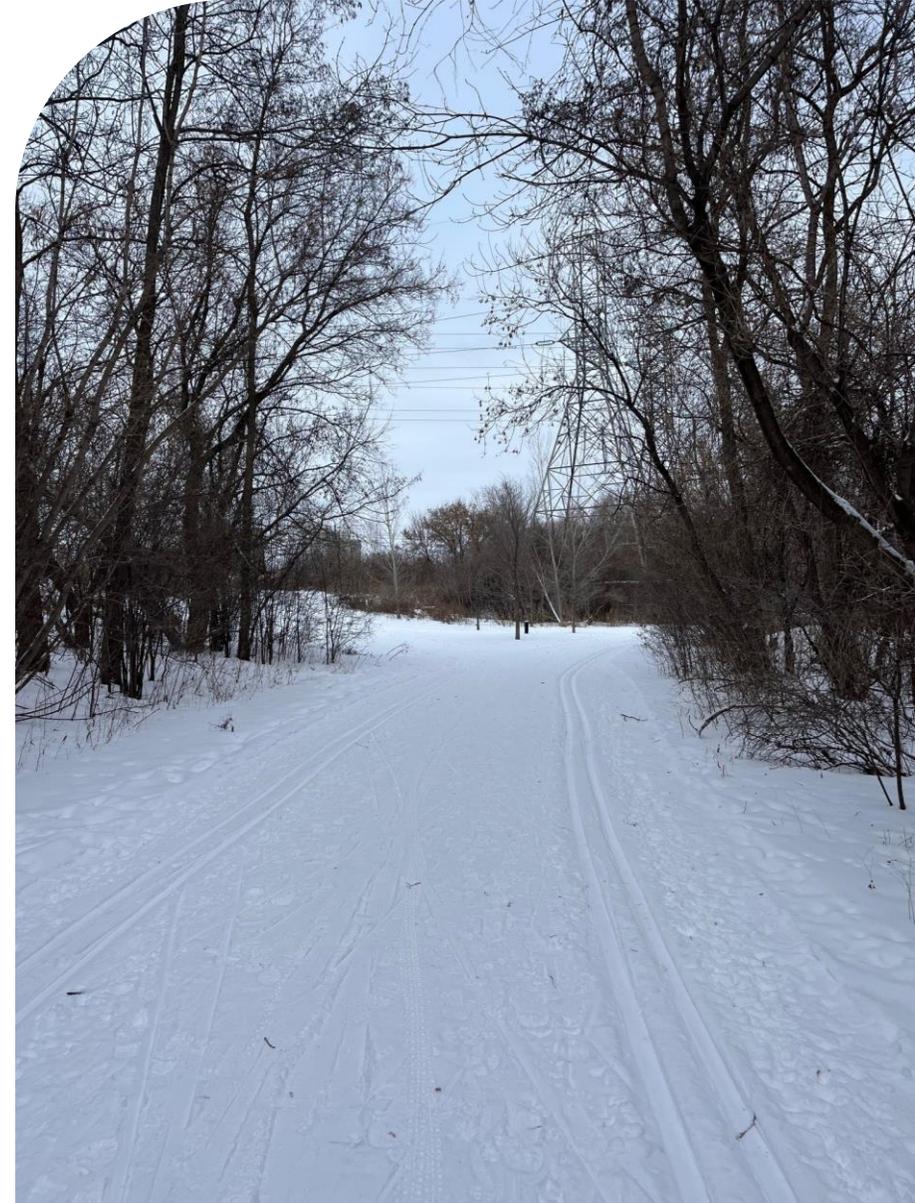
Indigenous Identifiers & OI Solution for Indigenous Organizations

Individual identifiers
(e.g., Indigenous self-identifiers, client language, responsibility for payment coded as First Nations and Inuit Health Branch)

Community identifiers
(e.g., geographic identifiers such as client postal codes)

Facility identifiers
(e.g., long-term care homes in First Nations communities)

And potential for linkage to Indigenous registries, citizenship lists, membership list with appropriate governance/approvals

CIHI's Policy on Release of Indigenous Data

- Prior to 2020, Indigenous-identifiable data could be released upon request, without permission from Indigenous communities, organizations, health authorities, etc.

- On August 4, 2020, CIHI implemented the Policy on the Release and Disclosure of Indigenous-Identifiable Data which states that:

  — Any request for Indigenous-identifiable data must be accompanied by approvals from appropriate Indigenous authorities.

  — The responsibility for seeking and providing evidence of approval from Indigenous authorities rests with the requestor.

Purpose of CIHI's Policy on Release of Indigenous Data

- Ensure that release for public use and disclosure to third parties of Indigenous identifiable data respects principles of Indigenous data sovereignty.

- Provide staff with direction and support for the public use and disclosure to third parties of Indigenous identifiable data.

Updated Indigenous Identifiable Data Policy (V1.2)

CIHI will recognize organizations as Indigenous for the purposes of reporting if their leadership requests this designation.

CIHI will add organizations on a go forward basis

The Indigenous data governance mechanisms for each designated organization are outlined in our internal supplements, along with the masking and suppression rules for availability across the organization.

As per the scope of CIHI's policy, Indigenous organizations' data will continue to be included in private reporting.

Sample Indigenous-Defined Analytics

Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority (SLFNHA)

19

CIHI – SLFNHA

- Collaborated for over 15 years

- Established an MoU in 2024

- Requests indicators on First Nations communities in Sioux Lookout area

- CIHI provides health information reports for communities

- Recent Cancer Report by SLFNHA was released in May 2025

- Ongoing collaboration focuses on Maternal and Newborn Health
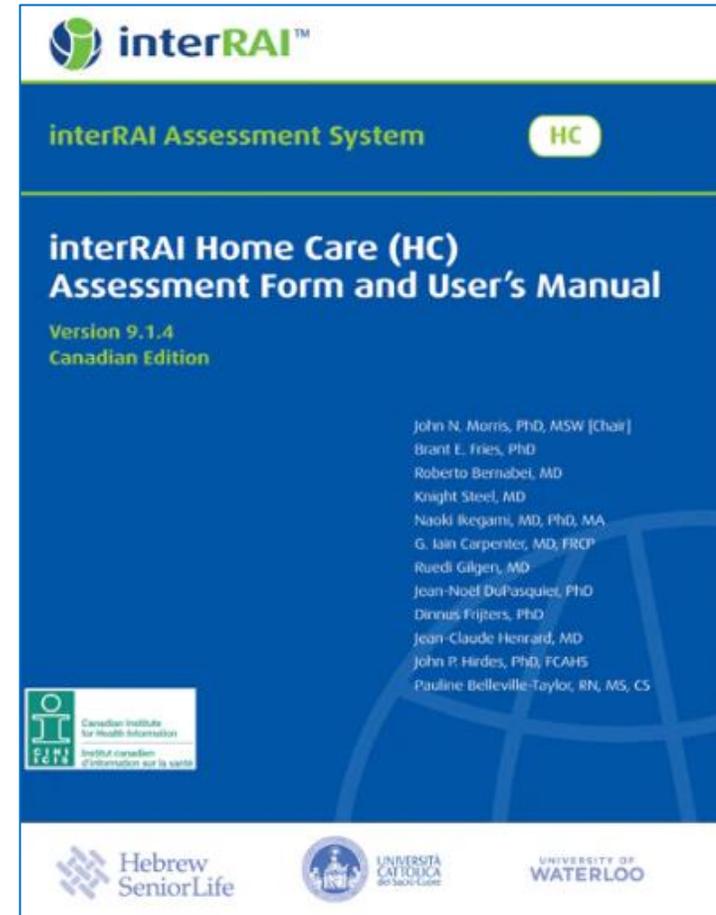
Questions?

interRAI, CIHI, and the assessments used in the community

Who is interRAI ?

interRAI is a collaborative network of researchers and practitioners in over 40 countries committed to improving care for persons who are disabled or medically complex.

Their network strives to promote evidence-informed clinical practice and policy decision-making.

The CIHI – interRAI Partnership

Canadian version of the standards

Output specifications including test data

Validations (longitudinal, administrative and clinical)

Software vendor licensing and testing

Reporting at jurisdictional, provincial/territorial level and Pan-Canadian comparable reporting
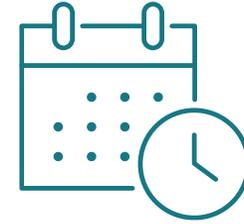
Education and support

Benefits of the interRAI Assessments

Consistent language, definitions and coding options that inform and guide comprehensive care planning

Common, clinically relevant core elements between all interRAI assessments

Standard observation period (3 days)

Benefits of the interRAI Assessments (continued)
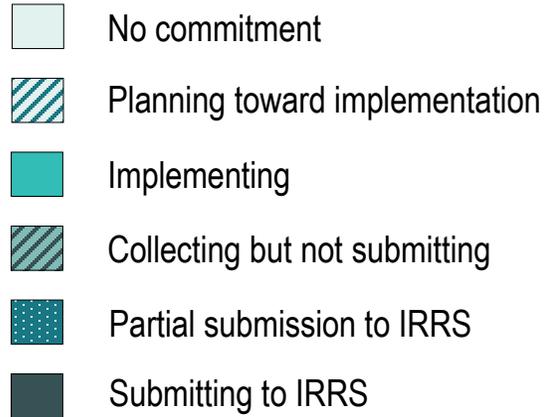
Reassessment cycle allows
for trending and comparisons

Standardized clinical and
organizational outputs

Improved consistency
in assessing areas that
affect care and quality of life

Implementation Status interRAI HC

As of Sep 4, 2025

Legend:
- No commitment
- Planning toward implementation
- Implementing
- Collecting but not submitting
- Partial submission to IRRS
- Submitting to IRRS

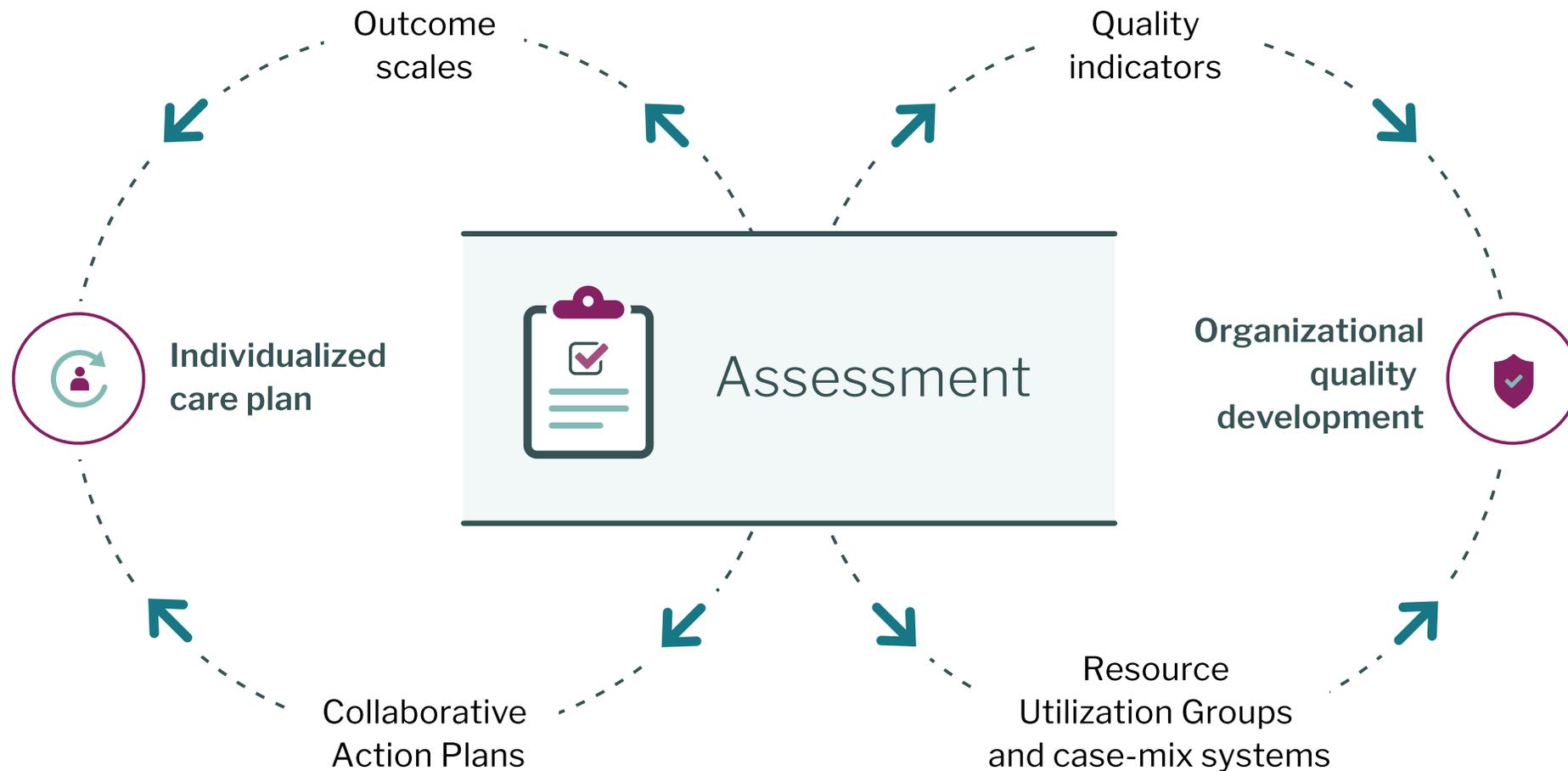**BC Health Authorities**
A — Fraser Health
B — Interior Health
C — Northern Health
D — Vancouver Coastal Health
E — Vancouver Island Health

YT*
NT
NU
BC *
AB *
SK +
MB*
ON ᵛ
QC
NL*
PE
NS *
NB
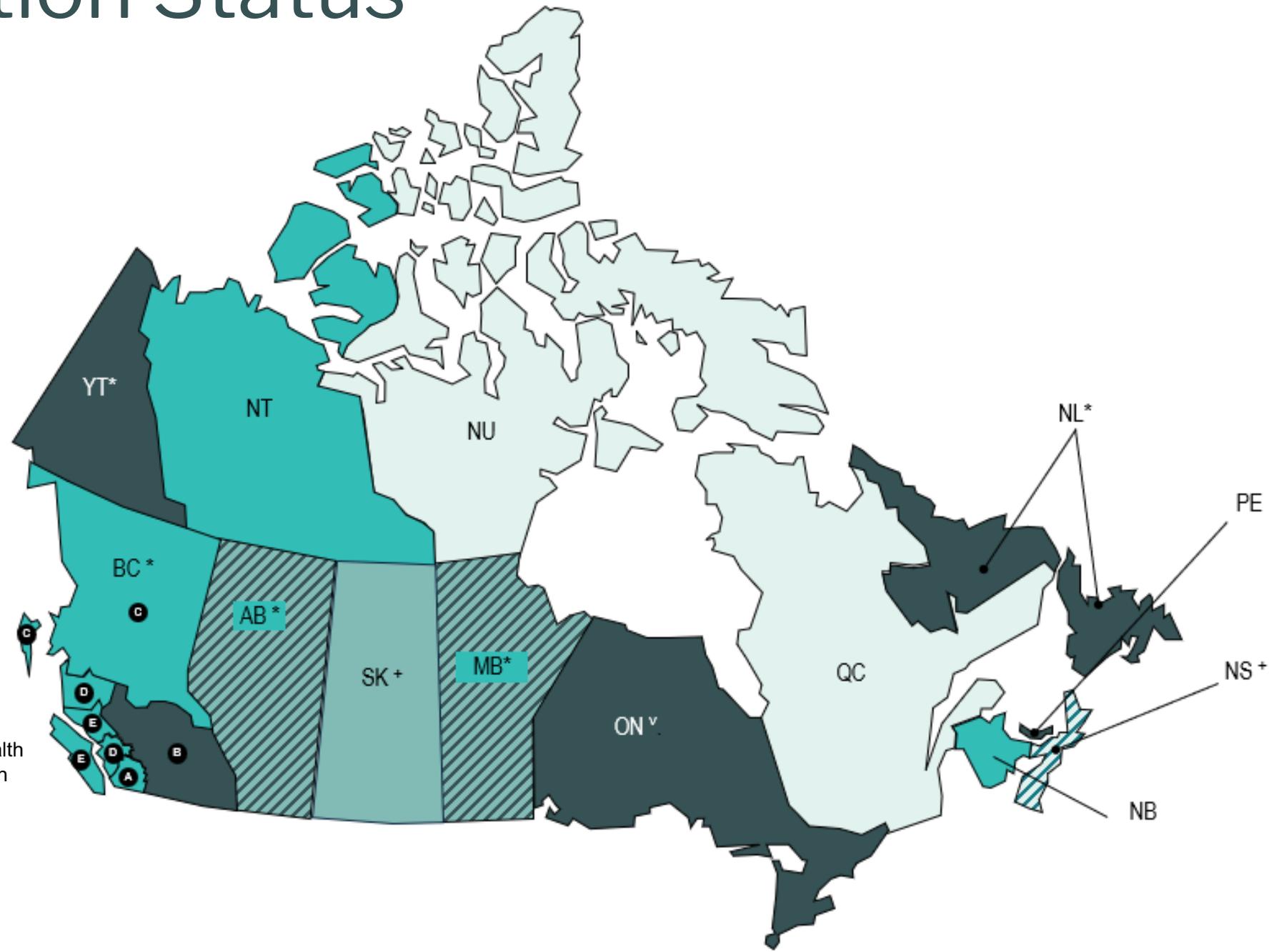
Standardized assessments drive better care and outcomes

Outcome scales

Quality indicators

Individualized care plan

Assessment

Organizational quality development

Collaborative Action Plans

Resource Utilization Groups and case-mix systems

Overview of data flow and usage

Client

- ☑ Information from assessments (clinical, functional)
- ☑ Demographic data
- ☑ Administrative data
- ☑ Treatment and service data

- Outcome scales
- Collaborative Action Plans (CAPs)
- Quality indicators
- Case-mix systems

Provinces/ territories and regions

Health system use

Pan-Canadian comparability

Administrators, directors, managers

Quality improvement

Program planning

Resource allocation

Clinicians, team

Care planning

System	Organization	Point of care

interRAI HC

Quality of Life
- Psychosocial well-being
- Social supports

Administrative items

Cognition and Mental Health
- Cognitive functioning
- Mood
- Behaviours

Clinical Management
- Health conditions
- Diseases
- Nutrition
- Skin Condition
- Medications

Physical functioning
- Communication
- Vision
- Hearing
- IADLs
- ADLs

Formal Services
- Treatments and procedures
- Formal care
- Hospital and emergency use

interRAI HC Outputs

- The interRAI-HC has embedded decision support outputs

- These outputs summarize information from the completed assessment

- Outputs can be compared over time to monitor changes

- Can support both clinical and organizational decision making and care planning

| Outcome Scales	Decision support algorithms	Collaborative Action Plans	Quality Indicators	Case Mix RUGs

Overview of the interRAI Contact Assessment

The interRAI Contact Assessment:

Records basic clinical information for persons with less complex needs who may not receive a comprehensive assessment

Provides 8 clinical outputs for informed decision making regarding appropriate support and services

Has been designed to be compatible with the interRAI HC
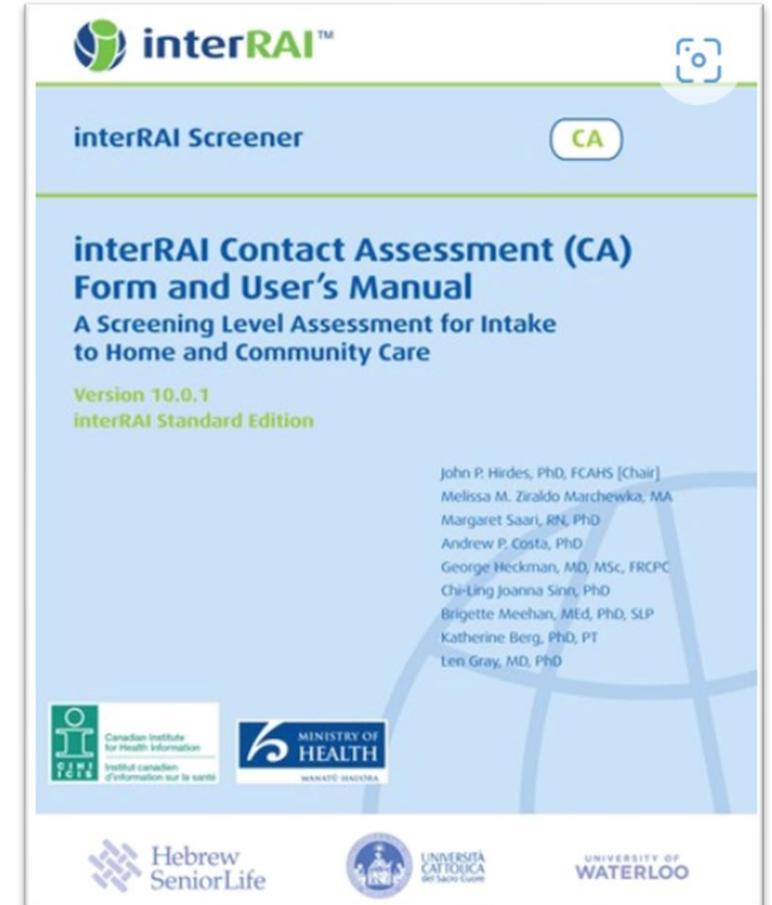
interRAI CA Outputs

- The interRAI-CA has embedded decision support outputs

- These outputs summarize information from the completed assessment

- Can support both clinical and organizational decision making

Self-reliance Index

Outcome Scales

Decision support algorithms

interRAI CA and the interRAI HC work together

Both assessments cover key domains of:

- – Physical function
- – Cognition and mental health
- – Social support
- – Treatments and service use

CA only records essential information needed at time of intake or screening to support decisions regarding:

- – Further assessment
- – Home care services
- – Specialized services (e.g. rehab)
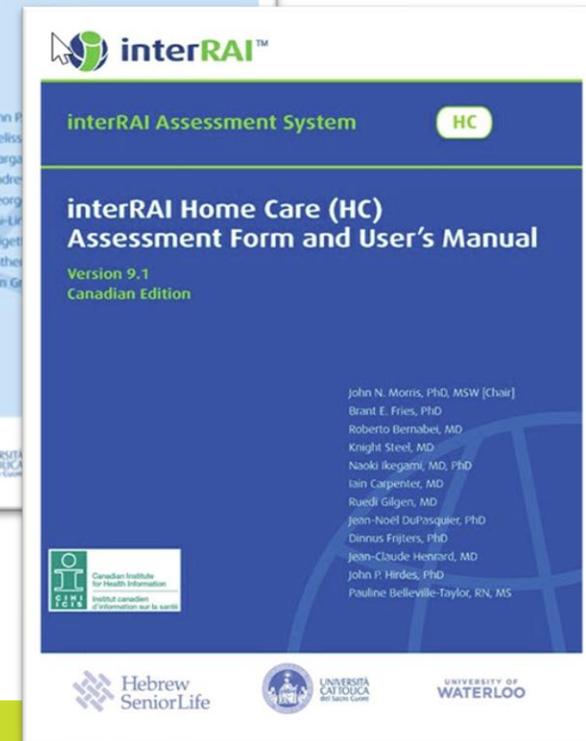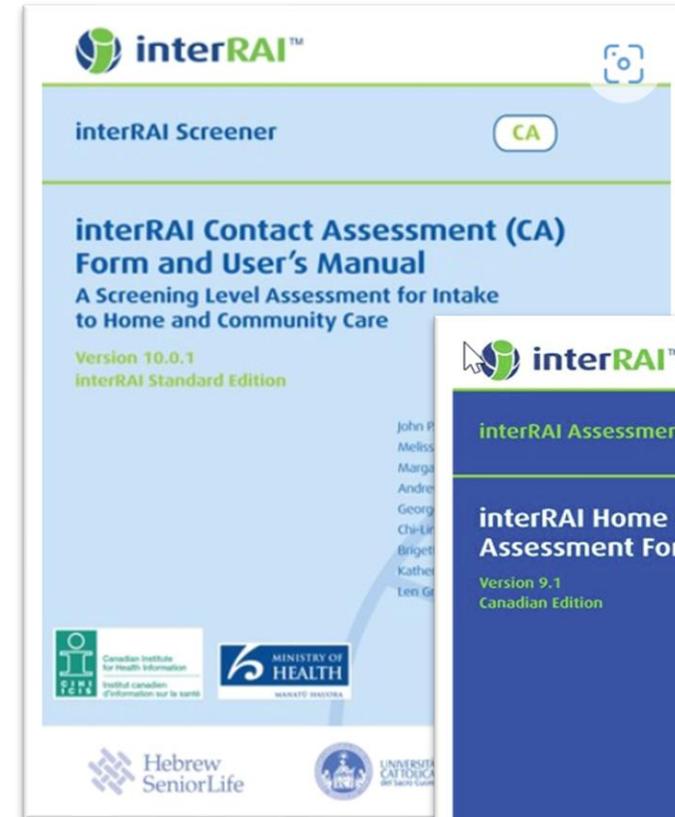
Where does the data go?

The Integrated interRAI Reporting System (IRRS) manages information captured with interRAI's integrated suite of assessments

It houses comprehensive health information (demographic, administrative and clinical) from different care settings in a single reporting system

Next session

interRAI HC assessment and the associated outputs

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 @ 1000 MST

Questions?

Thank you

For more information, visit

cihi.ca

Or email us at
specializedcare@cihi.ca