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CONCURRENT SESSIONS THEME 2: Research Initiatives in Nursing Informatics

**The interRAI-Community and Hospital Intake Profile
(interRAI-CHIP)**

By Heather Wiens B.Sc., B.N. & Lois Cormack, RN, MHSc, CHE

ABSTRACT

As the cohort of persons aged 75 years and older continues to expand, health care professionals must plan for the corresponding impact of that population's greater needs on the health care system. In order to incorporate best-practice initiatives, health care providers need to make more effective use of e-based systems.

interRAI instruments provide clinical professionals, organizations, and policy-makers with standardized health information for care planning, outcome measurement, quality measures, and case-mix applications. The current research involves a collaborative program of practice-based initiatives that may streamline intake, improve communication, reduce gaps in referrals and services, and lessen duplicate information collection among providers through enhanced electronic information gathering and sharing.

As part of a multinational research effort, the interRAI-Community and Hospital Intake Profile (interRAI-CHIP) is being piloted in multiple settings (emergency rooms, physician offices, CCACs) that represent the first point-of-contact with the health care system, in order to:

- determine if a uniform screening system can be used for 1) patients aged 75+ years in emergency rooms and primary care clinics, and 2) all adult CCAC clients
- further test the agreement between the interRAI-CHIP and other interRAI instruments
- examine the applicability of the interRAI-CHIP in other settings
- develop an interRAI-CHIP algorithm to identify patients who may require an alternate level of care (ALC) or short-stay or longer-stay CCAC services.

The presentation reviewed the study process, its current successes, and possible future applications.

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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Heather Wiens B.Sc., B.N.

Heather has extensive background in acute care, interventional cardiology/radiology and geriatrics. Her last position was as Geriatric Resource Nurse at Cambridge Memorial Hospital. This broad experience in inpatient, outpatient and emergency geriatric care prompted her to pursue further education, and during this time, she began her Masters degree part-time at the University of Waterloo under Dr. John P. Hirdes. Heather began work with the ideas for Primary Care project on a full-time basis in January 2005. Heather is a member of the RNAO Nursing Research Interest Group.

Lois Cormack, RN, MHSc, CHE

Lois, Vice President, Specialty Health Consulting, has extensive senior management and consulting experience in all health care sectors and Ministry of Health. Lois leads a team of consultants and associates, providing professional and management services to organizations. Lois has managed numerous successful clinical informatics projects including the common assessment project for CCACs, clinical information systems implementation, development of reporting systems, and performance measurement in acute care and long term care. Lois has lead the development of two best practice resource guides for long term care homes and leads stakeholder management with the University of Waterloo research team, "enhancing the use of RAI assessment instruments". Lois is an active member of the Canadian College of Health Service Executives and a member of COACH.