



**SECTION:** Access Coordination

**POLICY:** AC O3

**DATE:** February 2020  
February 2016; May 2015

**PAGE:** 1 of 2

### **interRAI Policy**

#### **PREAMBLE**

The interRAI ChYMH – Screener is a standardized brief, streamlined mental health screening tool intended to provide a seamless screening methodology that can be used to assist with triaging as well as identifying the need for a full, comprehensive mental health assessment using the interRAI ChYMH assessment. The primary use of the interRAI ChYMH-S is to support decision-making related to triaging, placement, and service utilization. The interRAI ChYMH-S has been designed (1) to screen for danger to self and others, and (2) to stream children and youth into the most appropriate type or level of care. Supplemental information to the overall screening process should be added as judged necessary. The items in this instrument describe the child or youth’s risk of danger to self or others, as well as an overall view of the child’s or youth’s presentation and functioning.

The interRAI is intended to be used with child and youth presenting with mental health issues to support comprehensive care planning, outcome measurement, quality indicators, and case mix classification to estimate relative resource intensity. It employs a three-day observation period in order to provide reliable and valid measures of clinical characteristics that reflect the child or youth’s strengths, preferences, and needs.  
*(The interRAI Child and Youth Suite Training Binder – ChYMH-S)*

#### **POLICY**

**The interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health – Screener (interRAI ChYMH-S) will be completed to evaluate the needs of children and youth aged 4 - 18 with mental health concerns and assist in triaging the child/youth to the right service at the right time.**

#### **PROCEDURE**

1. Resource/Service Coordinators will be trained to administer the interRAI tool; staff will follow procedures outlined in the *interRAI Child and Youth Mental Health – Screener (ChYMH-S) User’s Manual*.
2. The Resource/Service Coordinator will complete the interRAI as well as the Common Tool for Intake when children and youth present with mental health concerns, and are age 4 and older. Wherever possible, the Resource/Service Coordinator will directly complete the interRAI-S electronically.
  - The tool requires communication with the child/youth and the primary support individual, observation of the child or youth, communication with other service providers, and review of other available documents. Where possible, the child or

youth is the primary source of information. Resource/Service Coordinators should talk in private with each informant, if possible.

- The interRAI – S should be approached as an interview, not as a questionnaire. Resource/Service Coordinators should use open-ended questions and keep language straightforward (don't read off the items the way they are written)
- Items on the interRAI ChYMH-S Assessment flow in a reasonable sequence that can be followed in the assessment. However, the Resource/Service Coordinator should follow the path of the conversation as the order of the items is flexible.
- Sometimes the Resource/Service Coordinator must reconcile multiple sources of information that yield seemingly inconsistent results (for example, the child or youth being assessed may report something very different from the response of the parent). In this case, Resource/Service Coordinators must use their clinical judgment to determine the most appropriate response for the particular item.
- As with any assessment, if during the course of the interview, information of a reportable nature comes to light, it is the responsibility of the interviewer to report this in a timely manner based on individual workplace policy. The child or youth should be made aware of this information from the outset of the process.

3. The child/youth/family must be informed that:

- The interRAI assists in determining the most appropriate service(s) for their child and family
- The interRAI assists the mental health service provider to identify the key issues for the treatment plan
- The interRAI information collected is used in non-identifying summary form for community planning, quality assurance and Ministry reporting
- They are not required to answer questions if they so choose.

4. The Resource/Service Coordinator will use the interRAI to assess key domains of function, mental health, family and social support, and risk of harm to self or others that are current problems or that might become problems for the child or youth.

- The Resource/Service Coordinator will integrate what they see and hear to accurately code the interRAI-S using their best professional judgment.
- The Resource/Service Coordinator will use this information to identify individual needs and appropriate referrals.

5. Triaging of the referrals will be based on the procedures established in consultation with Woodview Mental Health and Autism Services and to the most appropriate community service/resources.

6. The Resource/Service Coordinator will usually enter the interRAI information live into the web-based program. Additionally, the Resource/Service Coordinator will save the interRAI to PDF, attach the interRAI in EMHware Attachments tab, and ensure the interRAI-S is included in appropriate referrals.

- In any situations where the interRAI is not completed for children's mental health referrals, the Resource/Service Coordinator will document in EMHware Case Notes the reason for not completing an interRAI.