



interRAI COVID-19 Vulnerability Screener (CVS)

The interRAI COVID-19 Vulnerability Screener (CVS) is a brief self-reported instrument that can be used to identify persons who may be especially vulnerable during the pandemic. The CVS is a self-reported survey tool that can be used with older adults and adults with disabilities to identify the presence of COVID-19 symptoms, frailty, and major comorbidities that increase mortality risk related to COVID-19.

How was the CVS developed?

The CVS draws from two scientifically validated interRAI instruments: a) the interRAI Contact Assessment and b) the interRAI Check-Up (Self-report version). Self-reported items from the Check-Up were matched to the Assessment Urgency Algorithm (AUA) from the Contact Assessment. The Check-Up has recently been validated through studies in Canada and South Africa. The AUA algorithm is already in widespread use by primary care, home care, and emergency departments internationally as a frailty-based measure to identify persons in urgent need of comprehensive assessment.

The COVID-19 symptoms included in the CVS are based on a review of 15 different self-assessment tools for COVID-19 that have been released by organizations like World Health Organization, US Center for Disease Control, and Health Canada. The CVS includes the potential COVID-19 symptoms included by the majority of those other tools.

The third main component of the CVS is interRAI's Major Comorbidity Count algorithm that uses medical diagnoses reported by the WHO to be associated with increased risk of death related to COVID-19. This algorithm has been validated using over 3 million interRAI assessment records from nursing homes and home care agencies in Canada and the US.

How can the CVS be used?

The CVS is a self-report instrument with standardized survey questions that could be administered by a lay person (e.g., student, volunteer, health care aide, administrative staff). This frees up valuable time for clinicians to focus on addressing needs of complex patients during the pandemic. The CVS can be administered over the phone or in-person. A self-administered version of the CVS is in development.

The CVS is a quick, convenient tool to identify persons who have health needs related to COVID-19 symptoms, frailty and comorbidity. These are important issues of concern on their own, but when these appear in combination, the threats to the well-being of vulnerable persons can be substantial.

You can use the CVS to:

- Identify persons who need urgent medical attention for emergency health concerns
- Should contact public health authorities for COVID-19 testing
- Prioritize persons who require a full interRAI assessment by a clinician
- Require monitoring to manage moderate risks related to underlying medical issues, functional problems, distress mood, or social isolation. These individuals could be followed with the interRAI Check-Up (self-report version) for a more detailed view of their strengths and needs.



What is happening with the CVS now?

interRAI has engaged collaborators in Canada, South Africa and Europe to begin using the CVS in primary care, geriatric services, and community programs with lay health workers to reach out to vulnerable persons living in community settings. interRAI has partnered with Raisoft Ltd. (www.raisoft.com) as a commercial partner who will provide access to high quality software for the CVS at no cost to users. The CVS will be used as part of normal clinical practice in these settings and the data will also be used for epidemiological monitoring of the health needs of persons who are not already enrolled in home and community care agencies that use interRAI systems.

If you would like additional information about the CVS contact:

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