How to use the RAI FRAILTY TOOL CPRS Reminder Dialogue Template
RAI Frailty Tool: Best Practice Implementation

**Step 1**
Distribute single-page patient-facing RAI Survey
Have patients complete as they wait.

**Step 2**
Use patient responses to complete the Online RAI
Use clinical judgment as needed to correct responses
This is a “Reminder Dialogue Template”. This means that it can be “programmed” to become due according to logic specified by you/your team and programmed by the Clinical Applications Coordinator.

It can be “turned on” for an entire medical center, a specific clinic or set of clinics, or a specific provider or group of providers.

You can even turn this on by service line clinic to correspond with the step wedge design.

Other options for using the RAI FRAILTY TOOL are to
- Add the RAI FRAILTY TOOL to any other CPRS Template (parent template must be a Reminder Dialogue)
- Locate the “RAI FRAILTY TOOL” in the list of templates to Drag and Drop into any note.
Finding the Tool in CPRS

2 options
Option #1:

Start a New Note

The RAI Frailty template can be accessed in CPRS by starting a new progress NOTE and selecting the RAI FRAILTY TOOL note title.

The facility CAC has instructions to create this note title and link the RAI Frailty template to the note title.
Installation Option #2:

Drag and Drop from Shared Templates*

To drag and drop the RAI Frailty Tool

Step 1: Select and open any new note
Step 2: Open the templates directory and find the VA RAI FRAILTY Score
Step 3: Drag and drop the template into the body of the note; That will bring up the reminder dialogue template

*Template must be added to the “Shared Templates” Directory by the CAC
Completing the Tool and Using the Online RAI
The RAI Frailty Tool assesses a patient’s global physiological reserve. Increased levels of frailty are associated with adverse outcomes and significant frailty is indicated by scores of $\geq 37$.

The link to the online RAI, a web-based tool that helps calculate the RAI, (housed in VA’s instance of REDCap) is available in the template.
Calculating RAI with the Online RAI Calculator

The user will complete the RAI by answering the questions or transferring the patient’s responses from the paper form.

After completing this more than 400,000 times, we know that it takes just 30 seconds to render the RAI score along with a plot permitting the interpretation of the results.
2 Scores: What Do they Mean?
• The RAI score is heavily influenced by the presence of a cancer diagnosis.
  • Influence of a cancer diagnosis varies by patient age.
  • It can be hard to determine how much of the score is attributable to the cancer diagnosis.
  • This becomes relevant in early-stage cancers that may be cured by the surgical procedure under consideration.
  • If the only thing making a patient appear “frail” is a cancer diagnosis, this might unduly bias against surgical intervention.

• The way we have managed this with the Online RAI is as follows.
  • When the RAI indicates a history of cancer, the Online RAI reports 2 separate scores:
    • RAI Score
    • RAI Score calculated as if the patient did not have cancer
  • This allows the clinician to quickly understand how much of the score is attributable to the cancer diagnosis.
  • If both scores are above 37—be careful.
  • If one is high and the other is low, it may require more clinical judgment to ascertain the realistic chance of cure.

• If the Online RAI reports 2 scores, there is the option to check the toggle box in the CPRS Template to display a second data entry field that can capture the RAI Score without cancer and record it as a separate health factor.
Previous answers on this form indicate that the patient has a history of cancer. If the patient’s cancer is unresectable, metastatic or carries a poor prognosis, the cancer should be considered “frailty-relevant” and increase the RAI score. If, however, the patient’s cancer is minor or definitively treated such that it does not impact long term survival or frailty, the cancer should not increase the RAI score.

**RAI Score:** "52" *(We recommend considering this higher score if the patient’s cancer is unresectable, metastatic or carries a poor prognosis.)*

Because this patient indicates a history of cancer, please select the toggle box in CPRS to this effect and enter the:

**RAI Score (without cancer): **"41" *(We recommend considering this lower score if the patient’s cancer is minor or definitively treated such that it does not impact long term survival or frailty.)*

Scores ≥37 indicate significant frailty and should be discussed with the surgeon and patient.
Recording the Score and Where to Find Help
Enter the RAI Value(s) into the open text field(s)
- If you indicated a history of Cancer, be sure you are recording 2 scores

Click Finish
- This will write the RAI value into your open note at the beginning of the note. It will also record the value as a “Health Factor” in the Corporate Data Warehouse, making it much easier to extract the data and follow outcomes. It is imperative that the RAI value be recorded in the template and that you complete the process by clicking finish.
Questions?

• Reach out anytime to:
  • VHASurgicalPause@va.gov

• Check out our Marketplace Page
  • VA Diffusion Marketplace