Frequently Asked Questions about the RNR Simulation Tool

How long does it take to complete the tool?
The Assess an Individual (AAI) tool takes about 10-15 minutes to complete if you have the needed information and/or can ask the client the questions on the tool. The RNR Program Tool for Adults takes approximately 60-90 minutes to complete, and the user will generally need to gather some program information beforehand. The Assess Jurisdiction Capacity (AJC) tool takes approximately 20 minutes to complete.

Who has the tool been designed for? Is it generally corrections or both corrections and treatment providers using the tool?
The suite is designed for collaboration between treatment and corrections. Ideally, a corrections agency initiates use of the suite and meets with community or facility-based treatment providers to disseminate the Program Tool for Adults, which is then completed by the programs, and the corrections agency is able to see the results. The corrections agency is responsible for completing the AJC tool. For the AAI tool, line officers from the corrections agency enter the data (or the jurisdiction provides data on individuals involved in the criminal justice system to GMU, and the officers can skip this step) and/or community providers can access the AAI tool and use it to determine whether an individual would benefit from their program.

Can the RNR tool be used with clients who are not in the criminal justice system?
For example in a medication assisted program, the client might not be in the justice system but has high criminal thinking and fits most of the characteristics of a high risk criminal justice client. The AAI is designed for criminal justice-involved clients, but it can also be used for non-criminal justice-involved clients. When asked about risk level, select "no risk tool is used" or use the built in risk level screener to determine the clients risk level. In the case of a non-criminal justice-involved client, users would ignore the recidivism risk output and look only at the strengths and needs as well as the treatment recommendations. The Program Tool for Adults can also be used by treatment providers whose clients are not all involved in the criminal justice system.

While effective programs can produce positive results for individuals involved in the criminal justice system, has there been research to actually test the theory that systems using the RNR framework for their entire organization produce cost-effective results?
The RNR tools are relatively new (launched in January 2013), so long-term results are not yet available. As we test the tools with different jurisdictions, we are developing case studies to determine how they are using the tools and what results they produce.

Can the RNR Simulation Tool be easily modified as different special populations emerge (e.g., Veterans courts)?
The specialized court portion of the Program Tool for Adults is designed to adhere to guiding principles that apply to any problem-solving court, not only drug courts. As we see new populations emerge that require specialized treatment, we are working to develop enhancements to the tools that reflect the needs of those special populations.

How does the tool score the free text fields?

The free text fields are not scored. They allow users to record additional relevant program information and provide valuable information to the GMU team so we can continue to update and improve the tool to accurately reflect programs.

Who completes the tools and how do they gather all the necessary information?
The most appropriate person to complete the Program Tool for Adults is the staff member or members who is most knowledgeable about the program, such as a program manager. The AAI tool should be completed by line officers or front-line treatment staff, and the AJC tool should be completed by an agency staff member who knows the jurisdictions aggregate or system-level data very well.