

# Translating and Validating the Risk and Needs Triage- Chinese Version in Taiwan<sup>1</sup>

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## Abstract

Drug users are disproportionately present in criminal justice settings. The intersection of drug dependence and crime, coupled with decreasing resources and prison overcrowding, has led to the development and use of a number of diversionary programs. This project is to introduce and translate the RANT® into Mandarin. The project proceeded in phases. First, the RANT® was carefully translated and back-translated into Mandarin and English using a professional translation service and content validity of this tool was verified by our study team. Second, we convened an expert panel (including addiction researchers, treatment providers and administrators, criminal justice stakeholders, and policymakers from Taiwan) in 5 regions to review the RANT® instrument and to consider necessary modifications related to legal, diagnostic, and treatment practices or terminology. Following any necessary modifications, the RANT® is established in Mandarin and ready for use. Based on current Taiwan regulations and 5 group discussions conducted amongst prosecutors, probation officers, physicians, scholars, policemen and health service providers, conclusions and suggestions are as follows: 1. The Risk and Needs Triage (RANT®) can be utilized as an objective assessment tool which provides evidence for prosecutors to make decisions on deferred prosecution to drug offenders. 2. It is suggested that the RANT® can be implemented by prosecutor's investigators. 3. It is suggested that assessors, prosecutor's investigators, should take 8 hours lecture on purposes, rationale, and implementation of the RANT®. In addition, 4 hours training of assessing practice is required. 4. The RANT® can be used for probation officers to monitor the progress of intervention and to counsel the drug offenders. 5. The RANT® can be utilized by other drug-related practitioners to tailor individualized service plan.

**Keywords: drug user, deferred prosecution, measurement tool, triage.**

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