

CMS Age-Friendly Measure: Overview for Hospitals and Health Systems



Starting with the 2025 reporting period, hospitals will attest to providing age-friendly care through a new measure introduced by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The CMS Age Friendly Hospital Measure advances the [Age-Friendly Health Systems](#) movement's vision to ensure that all older adults receive age-friendly care that is evidence-based and aligns with what matters most to the older adult and their family caregivers. To date, nearly 5,000 sites of care have been recognized as Age-Friendly Health Systems – Participants and celebrated by IHI and The John A. Hartford Foundation. The measure has five domains that cover all four elements of age-friendly care, known as the 4Ms: What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility.

Why the Measure Matters

- **Bolstering leadership buy-in:** The measure lets health system champions take both a top-down and bottom-up approach within their organizations while providing reliable, equitable, evidence-based care.
- **Advance preparation:** This attestation-based, self-reported measure has a low barrier. We anticipate additional benefits and/or consequence for age-friendly care delivery in the future. Starting the work now to achieve recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System allows for time to get ahead.
- **Acknowledgement and celebration:** Most health systems deliver at least some of the 4Ms for some older adults in their care. The measure brings a new opportunity to celebrate nationally the work that health systems are already doing. The five domains of the measure complement the 4Ms of age-friendly care, illustrated in the table:

CMS Age Friendly Measure domains (from the [Federal Register](#)) and the 4Ms

Domain	Crosswalk to 4Ms
Eliciting patient healthcare goals: This domain focuses on obtaining patients' health-related goals and treatment preferences, which will inform shared decision-making and goal-concordant care.	What Matters
Responsible medication management: This domain aims to optimize medication management by monitoring the pharmacological record for drugs that may be considered inappropriate in older adults due to increased risk of harm.	Medication
Frailty screening and intervention: This domain aims to screen patients for geriatric issues related to frailty, including cognitive impairment/delirium, physical function/mobility, and malnutrition, for the purpose of early detection and intervention where appropriate.	Mentation, Mobility, and Medication
Social vulnerability: This domain seeks to ensure that hospitals recognize the importance of social vulnerability screening of older adults and have systems in place to ensure that social issues are identified and addressed as part of the care plan.	What Matters, Mentation
Age-friendly care leadership: This domain seeks to ensure consistent quality of care for older adults through the identification of an age-friendly champion and/or interprofessional committee tasked with ensuring compliance with all components of this measure.	All 4Ms, including measuring the 4Ms and sustaining 4Ms care

How to Act on Both the CMS Measure and the 4Ms

The Age-Friendly Health Systems movement provides free resources to support the adoption of the 4Ms, including ways to engage and learn from other health systems. There are a few ways that IHI supports hospitals and health systems working towards the reliable practice of the 4Ms and achieving recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System – the DIY Pathway and National Action Communities.

IHI is currently developing a detailed crosswalk that identifies existing resources for implementing each of the 4Ms that will support hospitals' efforts to attest to each of the five domains of the CMS Age Friendly Measure.

Newsletter

To stay updated on new opportunities to engage with the movement, sign up for the [Friends of Age-Friendly email newsletter](#).

Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Pathway

Some health systems are able to adopt the 4Ms without requiring the intensive support of an Action Community. IHI offers this pathway for systems that are motivated and want to start right away without waiting for an Action Community enrollment opportunity.

- Learn more about [how to submit a 4Ms care description and get recognized](#)

National Action Communities

Action Communities enable teams to accelerate reliable practice of the 4Ms in an active community of learners and testers. This 7-month journey to [recognition](#) provides a structure for learning with and from other health systems and expert faculty. Over the course of the Action Community, teams participate in webinars and attend a group convening (in-person meeting, when possible) and develop their plan for practicing the 4Ms. National Action Communities are facilitated each year by the IHI in the spring and American Hospital Association (AHA) in the fall, allowing hospitals multiple opportunities to enroll at a time that works for them.

- IHI Action Community Spring 2025: [Register for the Spring 2025 Action Community](#)
- Future opportunities will be posted online here: [Join the Movement](#)

Coming in 2025: Online Course with Coaching

Stay tuned for an announcement about a new Online Course with Coaching to support individual health care team members, across professions and care settings, to implement the 4Ms and champion age-friendly care at their organization. The course will include a discussion of resources for the new CMS Measure.

Timeline of the Measure

- The reporting period begins in January 2025. This means that hospitals will attest to what they've been doing during calendar year 2025. [Click here for an example checklist](#) from Luminis Health Anne Arundel Medical Center as a starting point for documenting and monitoring progress towards attestation.
- Hospitals will attest for the 2025 reporting period in spring of 2026.
- Attestation results will be posted on CMS's Care Compare site in October of 2026.
- Payment penalties for those who do not report will begin in October 2026 (FY 2027).

Age-Friendly Health System is an initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation (JAHF) and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), in partnership with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA). Learn more at ihi.org/agefriendly or AFHS@ihi.org.