*Background Information and Talking Points:*

1. **Age Friendly Measure is a New Type of Measure to Support Older Adults in the Hospital**

* The Age Friendly Hospital measure is a new type of measure, a “programmatic measure” that considers the full program of care needed for geriatric patients in the hospital. The American College of Surgeons (ACS) put forth the Age Friendly Hospital Measure as an initial strategic step to promote system thinking and cross-specialty actions that are essential for care coordination and collaboration between geriatricians and geriatric-based specialty care. It addresses high-priority areas for older patients using evidence-based process measures and the associated structural foundations necessary to support these clinical processes. The measure was developed through collaboration of the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP). It incorporates essential elements of IHI’s Age-Friendly Health Systems program known as the 4Ms (What Matters, Medications, Mentation, Mobility), standards from ACEP’s Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) framework, and ACS Geriatric Surgical Verification (GSV) standards.
* The programmatic approach is based on several decades of history implementing programs that demonstrably improve patient care provided by the clinical team, along with the facility. It is modeled after ACS quality programs, which have demonstrable improvements in patient outcomes.

1. **Why is the measure important to put into the CMS IQR program?**

* Hospitals are increasingly faced with older patients who have complex medical, physiological, and psychosocial needs that are often inadequately addressed by the current healthcare infrastructure. The Age Friendly Hospital measure presents a quality program that addresses the current public health challenge facing the aging population—elements of responsibility, accountability, and data-driven improvement are programmatically applied for this population. Using this structure breaks down care siloes to create comprehensive care processes across the full spectrum of geriatric care.
* The measure centers on the care of older adults in a facility, focusing on surgery, the emergency department (ED), and hospitalization (in general). These areas were targeted because this is where older adults are especially vulnerable. The measure incentivizes hospitals to take an integrated approach to the care of older adults by implementing multiple data-driven modifications to the entire clinical care pathway from the emergency department to the operating room to the inpatient units and beyond.

1. **The Age Friendly Measure is Feasible**

* Components of the Age Friendly Hospital Measure have been implemented nationally, demonstrating feasibility and usability of the measure. As of 2023, over 3400 sites of care participate in IHI’s Age-Friendly Health Systems recognition in the movement, and GEDA verified programs are across 470 sites. ACS currently has thousands of delivery systems participating in programs with measures that follow the same framework as the Age Friendly Hospital Measure—over 60 hospitals participate in the ACS GSV program, and components of the GSV programs are in more than 500 ACS verified Trauma centers and 1500 CoC sites, to name a few. The GSV program has also been successfully implemented in multiple rural hospitals, demonstrating that it is feasible to meet these standards in various care settings.

1. **History of Age Friendly Measure Revisions and Reviews**

* The Age Friendly Hospital Measure (MUC 2023-196) is an updated measure that combines two measures previously reviewed by the National Quality Forum’s (NQF) Measures Application Partnership (MAP) in 2022: the Geriatrics Hospital Measure (MUC-2022-112) and the Geriatrics Surgical Measure (MUC-2022-032). The MAP Hospital Workgroups were very supportive of both measures, they conditionally supported the Geriatrics Surgical Measure with mitigating factors: 1) combining the two geriatric measures into a single measure that is less burdensome, or 2) focusing on only one measure.
* CMS has highlighted a need for a comprehensive measure that addresses the aging population during hospital stays. To support this effort, the Agency solicited comments on the measure concept in the 2024 Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) proposed rule.

1. **Hospital-wide Age Friendly Hospital Measure Updated Based on Stakeholder Feedback**

* Based on feedback received from the 2022 MUC process and FY 2024 IPPS proposed rule public comment, ACS developed the Age Friendly Hospital measure to streamline the previous measures and reduce burden. The measure now includes domains which target high-yield points of intervention for older adults—Eliciting Patient Healthcare Goals, Responsible Medication Management, Frailty Screening and Intervention (i.e., Mobility, Mentation, and Malnutrition), Social Vulnerability (social isolation, economic insecurity, ageism, limited access to healthcare, caregiver stress, elder abuse), and Age-Friendly Care Leadership. The measure encourages hospital systems to rethink how they approach care for older patients with multiple medical, psychological, and social needs at highest risk for adverse events. It also emphasizes the importance of defining patient (and caregiver) goals.

* In January 2023, the Age Friendly Hospital Measure was included as part of the CMS/Battelle Pre-rulemaking Measure Review (PRMR), which reviews the upcoming measures under consideration for future inclusion of CMS quality programs. During the January 2023 PRMR Hospital Recommendation Meeting, 73.6% of the Recommendation Committee members voted in support of recommending the measure for inclusion in the Hospital IQR, but consensus is 75% which is why we are asking for additional support during this comment period. The measure concept has received broad support across organizations who care for older adults and was recently highlighted in Health Affairs (<https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/need-geriatrics-measures>). During the first round of PRMR comments, CMS received a total of 25 public comments on the Age Friendly Hospital Measure, with 20 comments in support of the measure and four in opposition. The ACS also submitted a sign-on letter that included signatures from 16 organizations that supported the implementation of the measure in the Hospital IQR.

1. **Questions to consider as part of your public comment:**

* **Why does your organization believe this measure is important?**
* **Why do you believe this measure will help improve care for elderly patients?**