



The  
**John A. Hartford  
Foundation**

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June 10, 2024

**Re: Support for Age-Friendly Hospital Measure in the CMS Inpatient Quality Reporting Program**

Dear Hospital IQR Program Selection,

Throughout the CMS IQR consideration process, our support for the adoption of the Age-Friendly Hospital Measure has not wavered. Having seen the enthusiasm of stakeholders broadly and revisions to the measure, we are more enthusiastic than ever.

The John A. Hartford Foundation and our partners write to express support for the inclusion of the Age-Friendly Hospital measure in the CMS Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR) Program. This “programmatically composite” measure considers the full program of care needed for geriatric patients in the hospital. Developed in partnership with the American College of Surgeons (ACS), the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), this measure is meant to help build a better, safer environment for older adults and will help patients and their family caregivers know where to find best care.

The concept behind the programmatic measure is based on several decades of history implementing programs that demonstrably improve patient care provided by the clinical team along with the facility. The Age-Friendly Hospital Measure incorporates The John A. Hartford Foundation and the IHI’s Age-Friendly Health Systems’ framework known as the 4Ms (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, Mobility), standards from the Geriatric Emergency Department Accreditation (GEDA) criteria developed from guidelines endorsed by the American Geriatrics Society, the Emergency Nurses Association, the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine and the American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP), and ACS Geriatric Surgical Verification (GSV) standards. The programmatic approach is modeled after ACS quality programs, which lead to demonstrable improvements in patient outcomes across a broad range of populations.

The five domains of this measure represent crucial aspects of health care provision for older adults, emphasizing patient-centered care and well-being of older adults. Firstly, eliciting patient health care goals enables health care providers to align treatment plans with 4Ms of age-friendly care, fostering shared decision-making and focusing on what matters to the patient. Medication management is vital for older adults, who often have co-morbidities, emphasizing the need for monitoring and optimizing medication regimens to minimize harm and reduce unnecessary prescribing. Frailty screening and intervention are essential for early detection and management of common issues older adults face, including cognitive impairment, mobility limitations, and

malnutrition, which can significantly impact health outcomes. Social vulnerability screening acknowledges the influence of social determinants on health and ensures that older adults' social needs are identified and addressed within their care plans. Lastly, age-friendly care leadership establishes accountability and oversight, promoting consistent quality of care through the appointment of champions or interprofessional committees dedicated to upholding the standards outlined in these domains. Together, these domains emphasize the 4Ms of age-friendly care (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, Mobility), contributing to comprehensive and person-centered care for older adults, addressing their unique health care needs, and improving overall health outcomes.

We appreciate the opportunity to voice our strong support for the Age-Friendly Hospital measure for inclusion in the CMS Hospital IQR program. The measure is a critical piece in the optimization of care for older patients using a holistic approach to create a quality program that better serves the needs of this unique population. We believe these measures will help build a better, safer environment for the geriatric patient, and when the information is shared publicly, it will help patients and caregivers know where to get best care that is in line with their values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rani Snyder".

Rani Snyder, MPA  
Vice President, Program  
The John A. Hartford Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Fulmer".

Terry Fulmer, PhD, RN, FAAN  
President  
The John A. Hartford Foundation