

Frequently Asked Questions: Recognition by IHI of Age-Friendly Health Systems

Q: What does it mean to be recognized as an Age-Friendly Health System?

A: An Age-Friendly Health System is one in which clinical care settings reliably implement four geriatric care practices (4Ms: What Matters, Medications, Mentation, Mobility) in a manner consistent with evidence-based best practice. The 4Ms are defined, and examples of how to implement them, are featured in the [Age-Friendly Health System Guide to Using the 4Ms in the Care of Older Adults](#).

Q: How can my hospitals and practices be recognized by IHI as an Age-Friendly Health System?

A: There are two levels of recognition by IHI:

- 1. An Age-Friendly Health System Participant** is recognized for being *on the journey* to becoming an Age-Friendly Health System and has submitted a description of how it is putting the 4Ms into practice.

To be recognized, complete the [4Ms Description survey](#). IHI will then send you a Participant badge and a communications kit so you can celebrate this recognition in your local community. IHI may recognize your system's achievement on our website and via media releases.

- 2. An Age-Friendly Health System Committed to Care Excellence** is a recognition for being an exemplar in the movement based on 4Ms work that is aligned with the [Age-Friendly Health System Guide to Using the 4Ms in the Care of Older Adults](#) AND at least three months' count of older adults reached with evidence-based, 4Ms care.

To gain this level of recognition, reach out to IHI to ensure your 4Ms work has remained aligned with the [Age-Friendly Health System Guide to Using the 4Ms in the Care of Older Adults](#); make adjustments as needed. IHI will also verify that you've shared at least three monthly counts of older adults benefitting from evidence-based 4Ms care.

IHI will then send you a Committed to Care Excellence badge and a communications kit so you can celebrate this recognition in your local community. IHI may recognize your system's achievement on our website and via media releases. As an exemplar in the movement, IHI and partners may invite you to share your story and support other health systems.

Q: Do I have to take any steps to sustain my recognition as an Age-Friendly Health System?

A: The Participant and Committed to Care Excellence recognitions will be valid for one year from the date you receive your badges from IHI.