

## 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 health system 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 at [afhs@ihi.org](mailto:afhs@ihi.org) 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: Will my whole health system be recognized as an Age-Friendly Health System?*

*A: IHI will recognize the individual hospitals and practices in your health system that meet the two levels of recognition outlined above. For example, if one of the hospitals in your health system submits to IHI its description of how it is putting the 4Ms into practice, that hospital will be recognized as an Age-Friendly Health System Participant. If your Annual Wellness Nurses use the 4Ms and submit to IHI a description of how they are putting the 4Ms into practice, each of*

the practices where the Annual Wellness Nurses conduct visits will be recognized as Age-Friendly Health System Participants.

IHI looks forward to the spread of the 4Ms across your entire health system and the accumulation of recognition by all of your hospitals and practices.

*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.