



Expanding Age-Friendly Approaches to Specialty Ambulatory Care

Specialty Society Grant Program

Request for Applications-**Due Dec 3rd**

The Council of Medical Specialty Societies (CMSS), with support from The John A. Hartford Foundation, is providing an opportunity for specialty societies to incorporate evidence-based age-friendly care into specialty ambulatory care for older adults. CMSS will provide grant awards to selected specialty societies to improve the quality of care of older adults through the integration of the evidence-based Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms Framework (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility) in ambulatory specialty care settings.

Background

Given the shift from hospitals to ambulatory care for older adults, there is an increasingly compelling need to incorporate evidence-based, age-friendly practices into ambulatory care. While ambulatory care may often be preferable to hospital-based care, older patients and their caregivers now encounter complex ambulatory care that is not well coordinated across specialties and settings of care, especially for those with multiple chronic conditions and functional limitations, including dementia. This shift to the ambulatory care space for older adults creates an urgent need to spread evidence-based strategies into specialty practice. The Age-Friendly Health Systems movement, an initiative of The John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), in partnership with the American Hospital Association and Catholic Health Association of the United States, has developed an evidence-based set of clinical practices represented in the 4Ms Framework that improves care of older adults across settings of care, including in ambulatory care. IHI has developed extensive resources to support the adoption of the 4Ms across various care settings, including ambulatory care, and has established a recognition program to incentivize its adoption. However, further reach into ambulatory care—and reliable practice of the 4Ms in specialty practices—requires the specialties to define how the 4Ms will be practiced with their patient population and integrated into their workflows. It also requires alignment with the incentives of that specialty. The Age-Friendly Health Systems 4Ms Framework is designed to allow and even encourage this contextualization for reliable practice of the 4Ms. Adopting the 4Ms in ambulatory specialty care settings will ensure that evidence-based, age-friendly care is provided to older adults, particularly those with multiple chronic conditions and functional limitations.

Program Scope

The Age-Friendly Implementation Awards will be granted to at least five societies to support the development, dissemination, implementation, and evaluation of evidence-based Age-Friendly 4Ms care in their specialty. AACE will work with up to ten practices to identify the levels that will increase adoption of the 4Ms and support reliable practice of the 4Ms. These learnings about how the 4Ms are practiced in

their specialty and how to facilitate their adoption will be captured in targeted resources, including a Specialty-Specific Implementation Guide with sample workflows and guidance for integrating the 4Ms into EHRs. All sites will be required to disseminate the final data and results that may be incorporated into final outcomes papers and reports from the program. The final Specialty-Specific Implementation Guides will also be shared with IHI to support implementation more broadly through the Age-Friendly Health Systems movement. To achieve the project goal of supporting the adoption of the 4Ms in ambulatory specialty practices, project objectives for the societies include:

Objective 1: Develop a Specialty-Specific Implementation Guide

Objective 2: Work with selected practices to drive adoption of routine collection of the 4Ms into practice.

Objective 3: Evaluate the implementation, adoption and impact of specialty specific 4Ms approaches across participating practices through the collection and analysis of 4Ms adherence data and specialty-specific metrics.

Objective 4: Disseminate specialty-specific age-friendly care resources broadly within your specialty to drive specialty adoption of age-friendly practices.

Timeframe:

Application due: Dec 3rd

Decisions made: February 6, 2026

Period of Performance: March 15, 2026 – September 15, 2027

Award:

\$7,500 per site

Each site will be awarded as an IHI Age-Friendly system status designation

If interested, please complete the application: [CMSS HSP Application.docx](#)

Email completed application and required attachments to: education@aace.com

Application for Participation in the Age-Friendly Ambulatory Specialty Care Quality Improvement Program

Section 1: Health System / Practice Information

Organization Name:

Primary Contact Name & Title:

Email:

Phone:

Type of System (select all that apply):

- ☐ Academic Health System
- ☐ Community Health System
- ☐ Ambulatory Specialty Practice
- ☐ Multispecialty Group Practice
- ☐ Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC)
- ☐ Other (please specify): _____

Practice Specialty / Specialties:

Number of Practice Sites Participating:

Location(s):

Section 2: Qualifications & Rationale for Participation

2.1 Overview

Please describe your health systems or practice's background, including:

- Experience caring for older adults
- Current challenges or gaps in coordinating ambulatory specialty care for older patients
- Alignment of this program with organizational goals

2.2 Practice Staffing Model

Provide a description of the current and projected staffing model that will support implementation of the 4Ms Framework. Include information on:

- Clinicians (MD/DO, NP, PA)
- Nursing and care management staff
- Social work, pharmacy, or interdisciplinary roles
- Administrative and quality improvement personnel
- Technical staff (EHR, etc)

2.3 Older Adult Patient Population

Estimate the percentage and characteristics of older adults (65+) in your practice:

- Approximate percentage of total patients who are older adults
- Common chronic conditions represented
- Prevalence of dementia or cognitive impairment
- Functional and social complexity

Section 3: Commitment to Implementing the 4Ms

Overview of the 4Ms

What Matters – Align care with each older adult’s specific health outcome goals and care preferences.

Medication – Ensure medications do not interfere with What Matters, Mobility, or Mentation.

Mentation – Prevent, identify, treat, and manage dementia, depression, and delirium.

Mobility – Ensure safe mobility to maintain function and independence.

3.1 How Your Practice Will Implement Each of the 4Ms

Describe how your practice intends to adopt, operationalize, and integrate the 4Ms into everyday workflows.

What Matters:

Medication:

Mentation:

Mobility:

3.2 Workflow Integration

Please describe:

- How the 4Ms will be incorporated into daily clinical workflows
- Planned changes or additions to documentation practices
- How the 4Ms will be integrated into your EHR system
- Plans for staff training and consistent practice

3.3 Alignment With Specialty-Specific Needs

Explain how the practice will contextualize the 4Ms for its specialty and address any specialty specific barriers or opportunities.

Section 4: Preparation for Age-Friendly Health System Recognition

Describe how your practice(s) will meet the requirements to apply for IHI Age-Friendly Health System recognition. You may reference the link here: <https://www.ihl.org/partner/initiatives/age-friendly-health-systems/recognition>

Section 5: Organizational Support & Resources

Please describe:

- Leadership support for the initiative
- Resources dedicated to successful implementation (training time, QI staff, EHR support, etc.)
- Anticipated barriers and mitigation strategies

Section 6: Letters of Support

Attach letters of support from each participating practice site and any partner organizations involved in the proposal. Each letter must confirm willingness to participate if the proposal is funded.

☐ **Attached Letters of support from the practice/clinic**

Section 7: Certification

By submitting this application, the organization affirms its intent to fully participate in the Age-Friendly Ambulatory Specialty Care Quality Improvement Program.

Name and Title:

Signature:

Date:

Email completed application and required attachments to: education@aace.com