

News Release

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Bridgeport Hospital Joins Age-Friendly Health Initiative

BRIDGEPORT, CT (Nov. 4, 2019) – Bridgeport Hospital, part of Yale New Haven Health, has joined the Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative, a movement to improve health care for older adults, contributing to a goal of 20 percent of U.S. hospitals and health systems becoming age-friendly by 2020.

As part of the initiative, the John A. Hartford Foundation and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, in partnership with the American Hospital Association and the Catholic Health Association of the United States, are helping hospitals and other care settings implement a set of evidence-based interventions specifically designed to improve care for older adults.

The interventions can be tested and adapted by participating in what are called Age-Friendly Health Systems Action Communities. These are collaborative entities comprised of health care teams from all over the country who are committed to sharing data and learning together. All teams strive toward reliably implementing best practices across emergency departments, intensive care units, medical-surgical units, general wards, and primary and specialty care settings.

Bridgeport Hospital joins more than 100 health systems working to make care for older adults even more tailored to patients' goals and preferences and consistently of high-quality.

“Every day, your work, role modeling, leadership and kindness contribute to our ability to improve care for the older adults in our hospital and community,” said Vivian Argento, MD, executive director of the Geriatric and Palliative Care service line, about the providers who care for older adults in the Bridgeport Hospital delivery network. “This is a team effort and I thank everyone for their contributions.”

The Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative is based on a series of practices focused on addressing four essential elements of care for older patients:

- **What Matters:** Know and align care with each older adult's specific health outcome goals and care preferences including, but not limited to, end-of-life care, and across settings of care.
- **Medication:** If medication is necessary, use Age-Friendly medication that do not interfere with What Matters to the older adult, Mobility, or Mentation across settings of care.
- **Mentation:** Prevent, identify, treat, and manage dementia, depression, and delirium across settings of care.
- **Mobility:** Ensure that older adults move safely every day in order to maintain function and do What Matters.

The Age-Friendly Health Systems initiative was launched in 2017 by The John A. Hartford Foundation and IHI with a commitment to make 20 percent of hospitals and health systems in the United States age-friendly by 2020. For more information, visit www.ihf.org/agefriendly.

Bridgeport Hospital, part of Yale New Haven Health, is a non-profit 501-bed acute care hospital with two campuses (plus 42 beds licensed to Yale New Haven Children's Hospital). Both Bridgeport Hospital and the Milford Campus of Bridgeport Hospital serve patients throughout Fairfield and New Haven counties. The hospital admits more than 23,000 patients and provides nearly 350,000 outpatient treatments annually. The Connecticut Burn Center at Bridgeport Hospital is the only burn center in the state and one of only 64 verified burn centers in the United States. Bridgeport Hospital is committed to providing safe, compassionate and cost efficient care to its patients and the community. www.bridgeporthospital.org