

SAGE QUERI Program

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration

Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

Optimizing safety and quality of care for older Veterans

The Safer Aging through Geriatrics-Informed Evidence-based Practices (SAGE) QUERI Program is partnering with 2 National Program Offices and VISN 4 to scale up and spread 4 synergistic effective practices across 9 VA Medical Centers and 45 outpatient clinics, developing evidence-based tools and resources for implementation beyond VISN 4, and building sustained operational networks. Thus far, SAGE has completed active implementation at 3 sites and currently conducting active implementation for the second wave of 3 sites. We are in the middle of our second rapid response project in collaboration with the Geriatrics and Extended Care National Office.

Implementing four synergistic practices across VISN 4

Recognizing that there are persistent quality gaps in current care for older adults across health systems, the Institute of Healthcare Improvement and the John A. Hartford Foundation are leading a national campaign to make health systems “Age-Friendly.” This movement identified four overarching dimensions of high-quality health care, known as the “four M’s.”

Four M’s of the Age-Friendly Health System



What Matters: Attending to each person’s goals and preferences



Medication: Avoiding harms related to administering



Mentation: Preventing, identifying, treating, and managing dementia, depression, and delirium across care settings



Mobility: Promoting safe movement to maintain function and independence

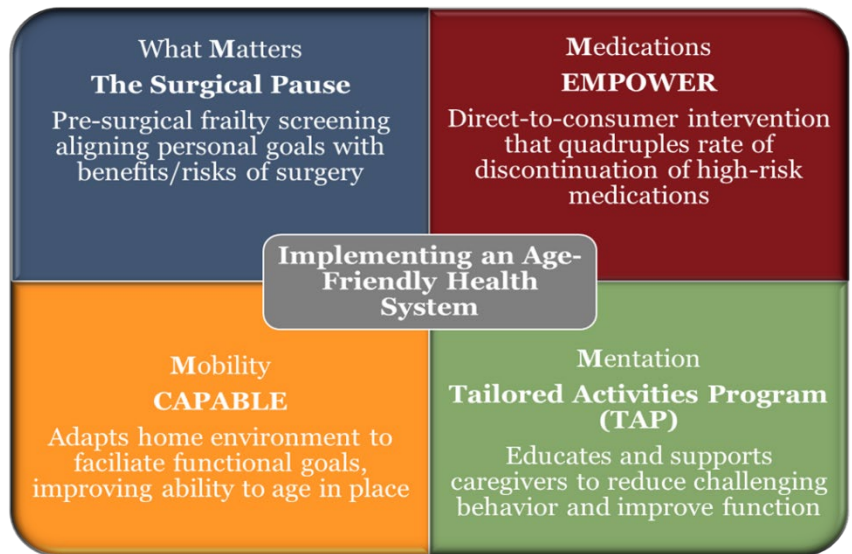
With more than 4 million Veterans aged 65 and older, VA is working to optimize care for Veterans as they age, both along the continuum of care and the continuum of life. SAGE is partnering with multi-level stakeholders across VISN 4 to implement four effective practices that address the four “M’s,” support mentoring opportunities to train leaders in implementation science and geriatrics, and respond to emerging VA priorities for older Veterans using a data-driven approach.



SAGE QUERI PROGRAM
Safer Aging through Geriatrics-informed Evidence-based Practices

Leveraging cross-cutting partnerships and cores SAGE is built around five core functions to accomplish these cross-cutting impact goals of becoming an Age-Friendly Health System:

1. **Implementation Core:** rigorously evaluate implementation strategies
2. **Methods Core:** assess quantitative and qualitative outcomes, including a return-on-investment analysis
3. **Mentoring Core:** train future leaders at the crucial intersection of geriatrics and implementation science
4. **Rapid Response Team:** address emerging VA priorities
5. **Technical Expert Panel:** provide multi-stakeholder input on Program activities

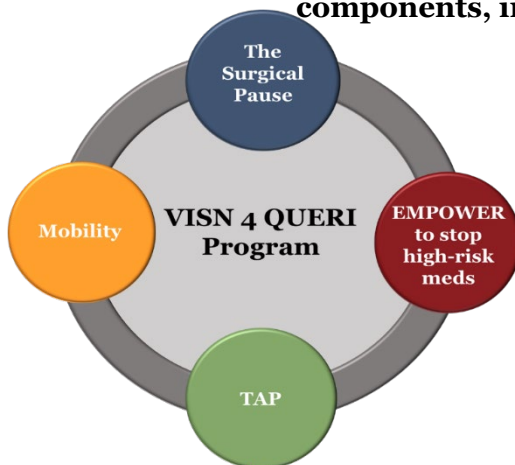


Multi-Level Partnerships

- Geriatrics and Extended Care National Office
- National Surgical Program Office
- VISN 4 leadership, including Director, CMO, and all 9 VA Medical Center Directors

Moving the Needle on Quality of Care and Veteran Outcomes

VISN 4 Implementation of Age-Friendly Health System components, informed by the PRISM Framework



For more information, check out:

<https://www.visn4.va.gov/VISN4/SAGE/index.asp>

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact, Tanisha Dicks-Hall at tanisha.dicks@va.gov.

Principal Investigators:

Robert E. Burke, MD, MS (Philadelphia VA Medical Center)

Judith A. Long, MD (Philadelphia VA Medical Center)

Rachel M. Werner, MD, PhD (Philadelphia VA Medical Center)

Daniel Hall, MD, MDiv, MHSc (Pittsburgh VA Medical Center)