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# THE VALUE OF INTEGRATED PRIMARY CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS: CONSIDERATIONS FOR HEALTH CENTERS (WEBINAR SERIES)

**SESSION 1: Improving Health Outcomes Through Integrated Care in Later Life**



March 3, 2026

# REMINDERS

- All participants are muted on entry to limit background noise
- Use the Q&A or chat box to ask a question during the session
- This webinar is being recorded and materials will be emailed to participants
- We would love to hear your feedback – please fill out our brief evaluation at the end of this session!

## Founded in 1995 | Nonprofit

- HRSA National Cooperative Partner
- Supporting health centers & nonprofits with capital, operational, and strategic planning
- National leader in facility, financial, and operational strategies



## OUR VISION

We believe in a just future in which every individual is treated with dignity and respect and has access to quality healthcare, regardless of their ability to pay.

**Partners in Health Care Impact Through  
Data, Strategy, and Capital**



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# ABOUT NCECE

**Who We Are:** Established in 2017, the National Center for Equitable Care for Elders (NCECE) is a training and technical assistance Center that provides innovative models of care, inter-professional training and educational resources to health care professionals providing care to older adults.

**Our Mission** is to build strong, innovative and competent health care models by partnering with health centers & primary care associations to provide quality care for older adults.

## Stay Connected With NCECE:

- **Twitter:** [twitter.com/NationalECE](https://twitter.com/NationalECE)
- **Bluesky:** [bsky.app/profile/nationalece.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/nationalece.bsky.social)
- **Facebook:** [facebook.com/NationalECE](https://facebook.com/NationalECE)
- **LinkedIn:** [linkedin.com/company/ncece](https://linkedin.com/company/ncece)
- **Website:** [ece.hsdm.harvard.edu](https://ece.hsdm.harvard.edu)
- **eLearning Library:** [ncece.dialogedu.com/elearning-library](https://ncece.dialogedu.com/elearning-library)
- **Email:** [ece@hsdm.harvard.edu](mailto:ece@hsdm.harvard.edu)



## SMALL GROUP TRAINING

### *Improving Community-Based Geriatric Care Community of Practice*

**Dates:** April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19 from 2-3PM ET

**Apply Today!**



Andrea Wershof Schwartz,  
MD MPH, AGSF  
Harvard Medical School



Arielle Mather, MPH  
National Center for Equitable  
Care for Elders

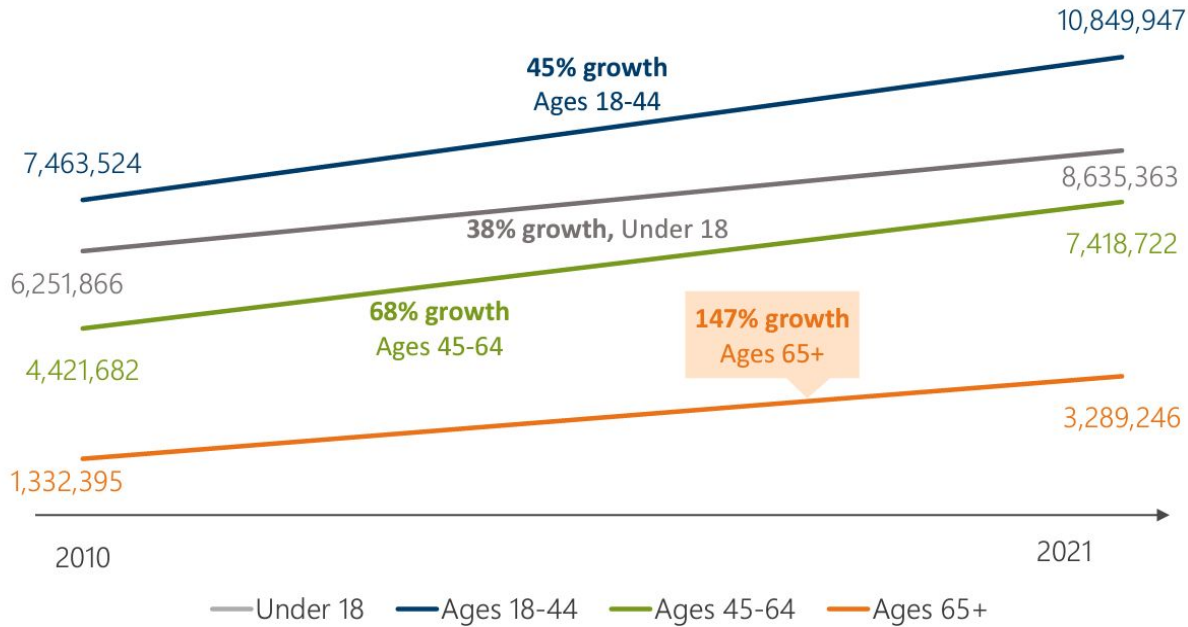


[Learn more & apply today!](#)

# SERIES LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Describe the core components of high-quality integrated care for patients as they age
- Examine current care delivery to identify gaps and opportunities for implementation of age-friendly principles to drive practice change
- Identifying best practices for the development and implementation of Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) in a health center setting

## Number of Health Center Patients by Age Group, 2010 – 2020



**Older adults (65+) are the FASTEST growing patient group served by health centers**

# INACCURATE BELIEFS ABOUT LATER LIFE

- Misconception that certain conditions are inevitable as we age:
  - Pain/discomfort
  - Functional decline
  - Social isolation
  - Depression
  - Dementia
- Assumption that you can be “too old” to change health behaviors
- Portrayal of older adults in media: very fit or very frail

# AGING IN COMMUNITY

Most older adults wish to stay in the homes and communities **of their choice** as they age, instead of relocating to an institutional care setting.

Familiar environments support cognitive function, help maintain social connection, and are usually more cost-effective.

# COMPLEXITY OF AGING

## Medical

(chronic conditions,  
polypharmacy, oral health,  
cognitive changes)

## Functional

(mobility, activities  
of daily living, frailty)

## Non-Clinical

(housing stability,  
transportation,  
caregiving)

## Behavioral

(depression, anxiety,  
isolation, grief,  
substance use)

# WHAT IS INTEGRATED CARE?

“Services managed and delivered in a way that ensures people receive a continuum of care across health and social care... Service delivery is integrated across sectors, settings and sites across the life course.”

*World Health Organization (WHO)*



# WHAT DOES INTEGRATED CARE INCLUDE?

- ❑ Health promotion
- ❑ Prevention
- ❑ Diagnosis
- ❑ Treatment
- ❑ Rehabilitation
- ❑ Palliative care
- ❑ Community-based services



I C O P E

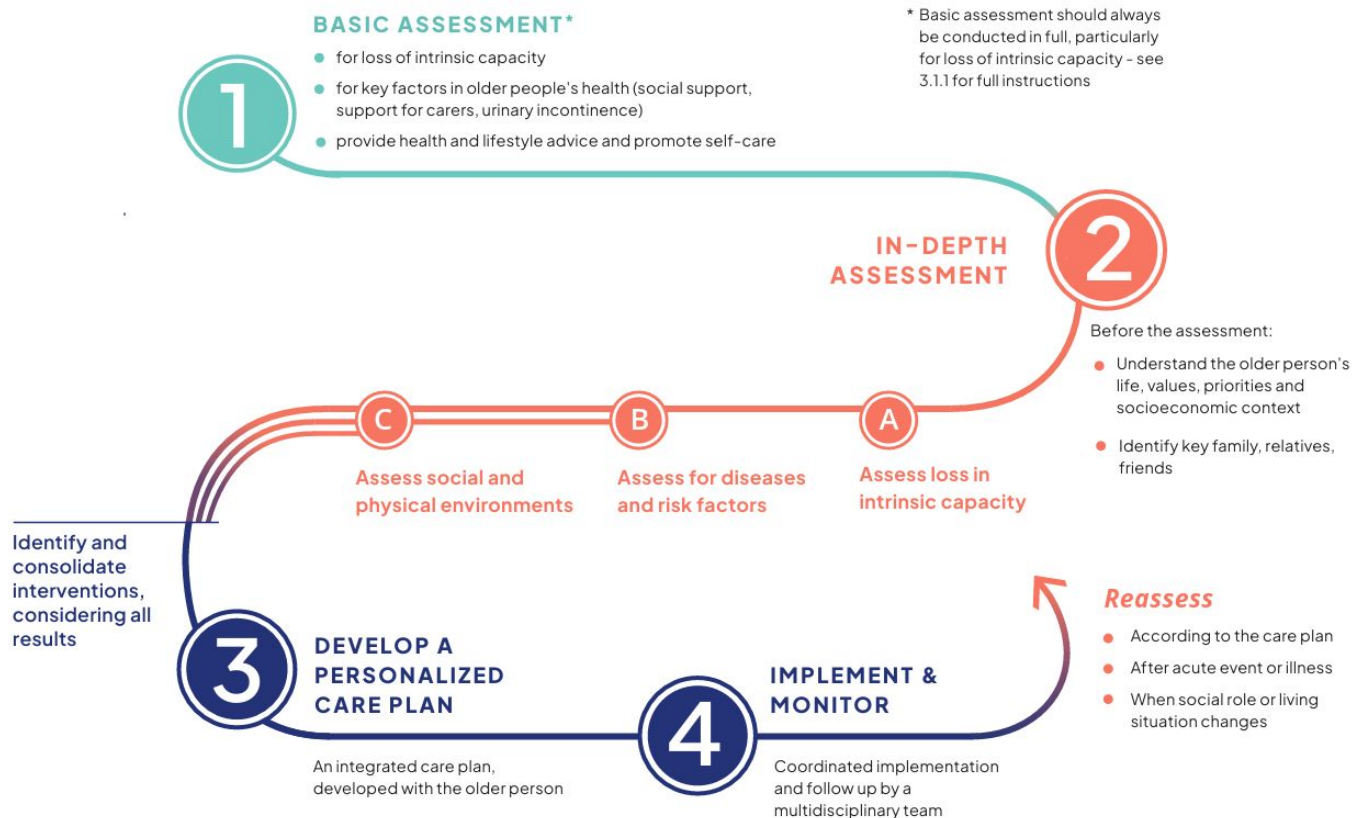
The acronym IC O P E, where the letter 'O' is replaced by a stylized graphic of three concentric circles.

# BENEFITS OF INTEGRATED CARE FOR OLDER ADULTS

- Reduced duplication of services
- Improved service coordination
- Reduced hospitalizations and ER visits
- Improved functional capacity
- Improved health outcomes
- Improved quality of life

**Fig. 1.1**  
**ICOPE care pathway**

## Integrated care for older people (ICOPE)

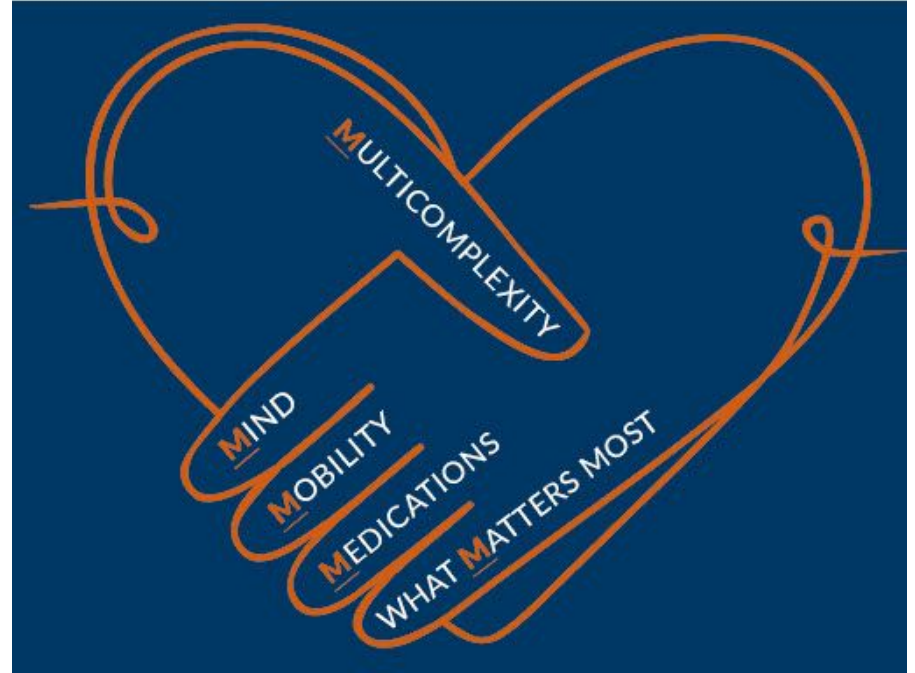


# What is “Age-Friendly” Healthcare?

- Follows an essential set of evidence-based practices
- Cause no harm
- Aligns with *What Matters* to the older adult and their family caregivers
- Includes efforts that improve health outcomes for ALL ages

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**Age-Friendly Health Centers**  
recognize the connection among  
all of the *Geriatrics 5Ms*: Mind,  
Mobility, Medications, What  
Matters, and **Multi-complexity**



The Geriatrics 5M's: A New Way of Communicating What We Do

# COMMUNITY-LEVEL INTERVENTIONS

- Community-based organizations (CBOs) can provide tailored support to older adults: nutrition, transportation, social connection
- Area agencies on aging (AAAs) coordinate and offer services that allow individuals to remain in their homes for as long as possible
- Partnerships between health centers and CBOs increase capacity to address health-related needs in later life

# PROGRAMS OF ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY (PACE)

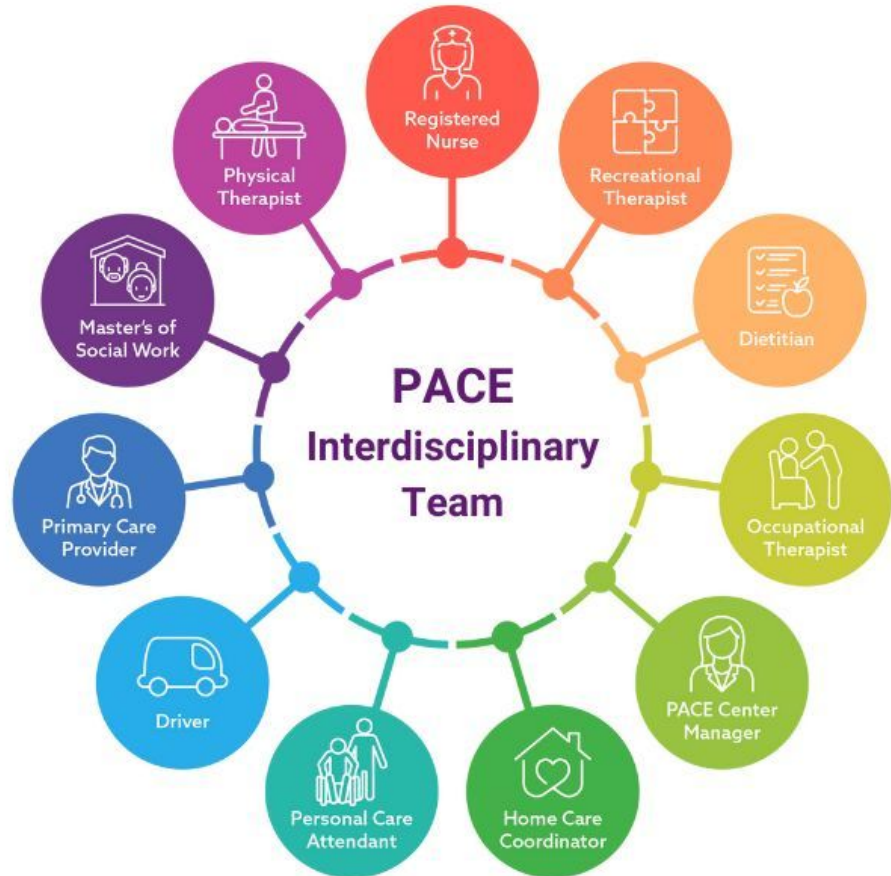
- Provides a comprehensive service package that allows frail, community-dwelling older adults to remain at home instead of long-term care
- PACE becomes the sole source of services for Medicare and Medicaid eligible enrollees
- Eligibility requirements:
  - ◆ Age 55 or older
  - ◆ Live in the service area of a PACE organization
  - ◆ Eligible for nursing home care
  - ◆ Able to live safely in the community at the time of enrollment

# What is PACE?

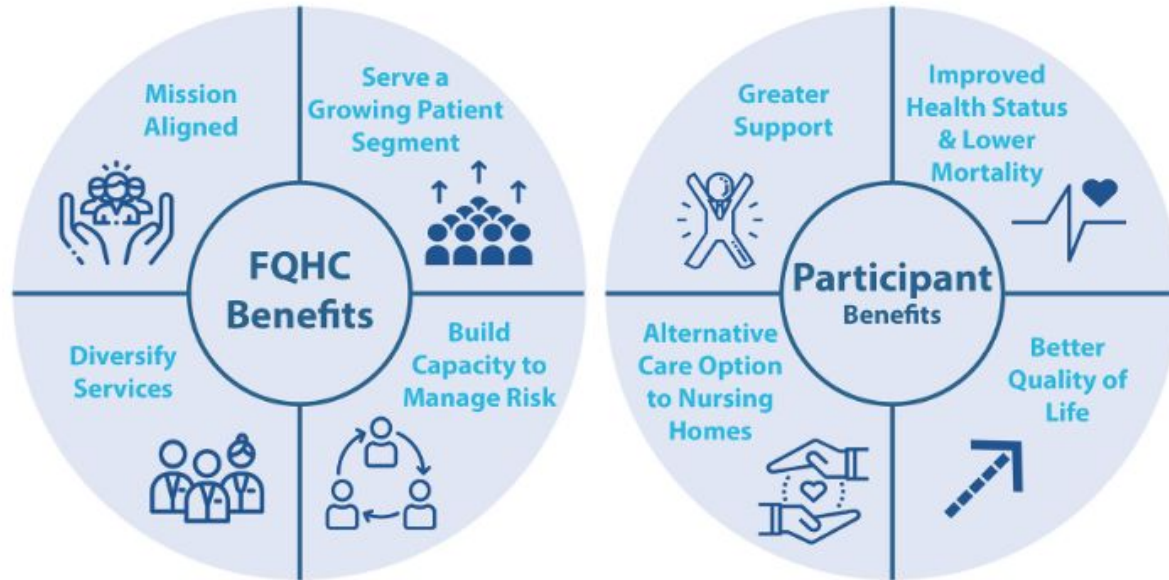
Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly is a community-based care option that allows older adults to safely remain living in the community. PACE provides comprehensive services, uniquely customized to each individual.



The independence you want. The care you need.



# BENEFITS OF PACE



# DIFFERENT APPROACHES, SAME DESTINATION

- Enhancing care coordination within existing teams
- Adding new services like geriatric assessment or fall prevention programs
- Strengthening community partnerships to address health-related needs
- Exploring comprehensive models like Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)

**All paths lead to better health outcomes for older adults!**

# UPCOMING SESSIONS

## **Session 2: Health Centers as Age-Friendly Health Systems**

March 10, 2026

2:00-3:00PM Eastern



## **Session 3: Advancing Age-Friendly Care in Health Centers: Implementation, Success Stories, and Lessons from PACE**

March 17, 2026

2:00-3:00PM Eastern



# TODAY'S PANEL



**Cheryl Modica PhD, MPH, BSN**  
Director, Quality Center, National  
Association of Community  
Health Centers



**Michael Goldrich, MD**  
Physician, LifeLong Over 60  
Health Center

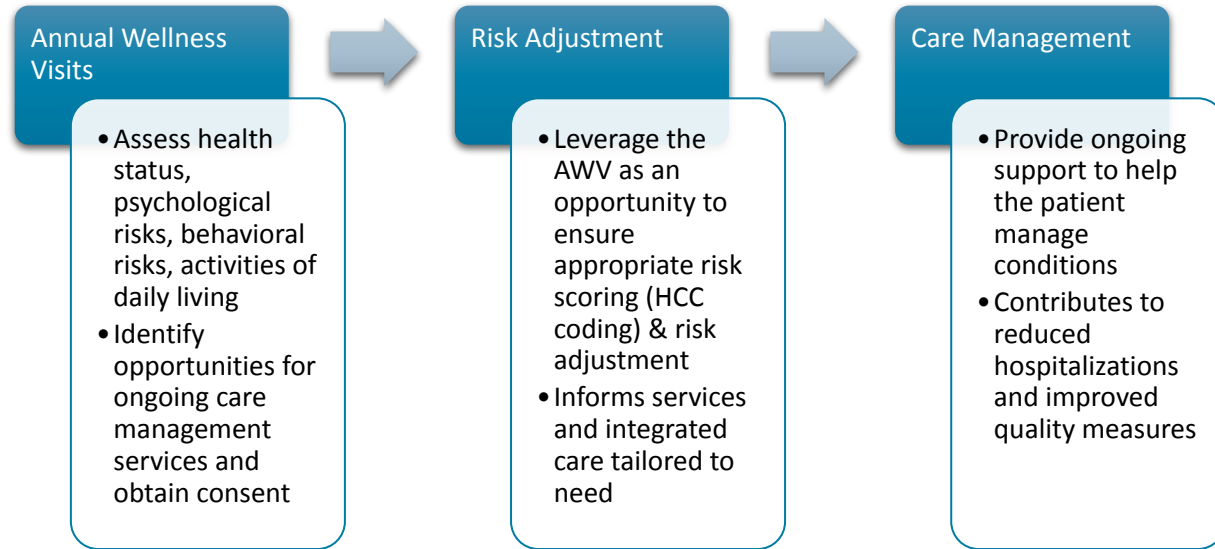


**Miriam Parker, DDS, MPA**  
Chief Dental Officer, LifeLong  
Medical Care

# PANEL QUESTIONS

- How does your current work currently support integrated care for older adults?
- What is one misconception about caring for older adults in primary care settings that you wish more providers understood?
- When thinking about the complexity of older adults' needs (medical, social, functional), what are the greatest challenges you or others have faced?
  - What creative solutions have you seen work?
- For health centers interested in becoming more "age-friendly," what's one concrete first step you'd recommend them to take?

# Supporting Integrated Care



**Care models that support integrated care...  
as well as revenue opportunities**



# Reimbursement Tip Sheets

**REIMBURSEMENT TIPS**

**Payment**  
**Medicare Wellness Visits:  
Chronic Care Management,  
Complex Chronic Care  
Management, Principal  
Care Management**

**Helpful Resources:**

- Medicare Billing Links, Defined for definitions of terms used throughout this document
- Summary of Medicare Care Management Services for an overview of Medicare care management services billable by FQHCs
- Sliding Copayment for Medicare Care Management Services for more information on sliding fee discounts for care management services

**What You'll Learn from This Guide**

- ✓ Explain the differences between CCM, CCCM, and PCM
- ✓ Outline the initiating visit, patient eligibility, and care team requirements for chronic care management services
- ✓ Apply correct coding, billing, documentation, and co-occurring service rules for FQHCs

**Overview**

Medicare's chronic care management services are personalized and supportive services provided to patients with chronic conditions to coordinate care and develop a care plan to achieve health goals.

- **Chronic Care Management (CCM)** services support individuals with multiple chronic conditions
- **Complex Chronic Care Management (CCCM)** services support individuals with multiple chronic conditions who require moderate or high medical decision making
- **Principal Care Management (PCM)** services support individuals with a single complex chronic condition

**Learner Roles:**  
Clinical & Quality  
Operations & Administration  
Patient & Community Support

**Learner Level**

National Association of Community Health Centers | QualityCenter@nacc.org | January 2026

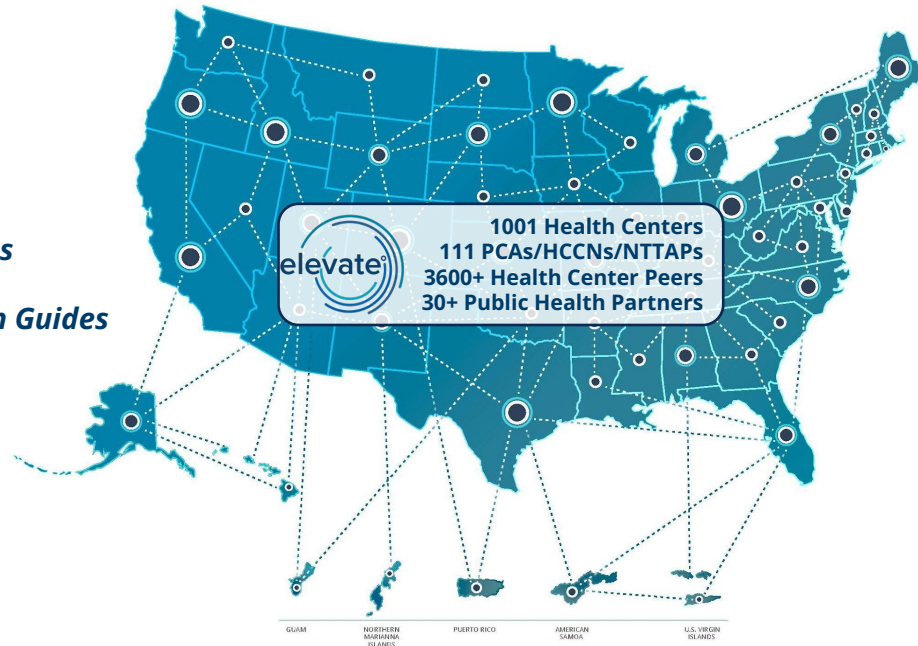
## Reimbursement Tip Sheets

- Detailed guidance
- Simplified language
- Aligned with 2026 Medicare Physician Fee Schedule Final Rule

**More than 15 Reimbursement Tips available!**

# Elevate 2026

- *Monthly Webinars*
- *Supplemental Sessions*
- *Evidence-Based Action Guides*
- *Action Briefs*
- *eLearning Modules*
- *Tools & Resources*



**Share Elevate  
with others!**

# Three Pathways to Engage in 2026



elevate

## Team/Organization



Teams and organizations engage in a guided transformation journey, beginning with the VTF Assessment, identifying priority areas, and applying Elevate tools and resources to strengthen systems and drive improvement.

## Individual Pathway

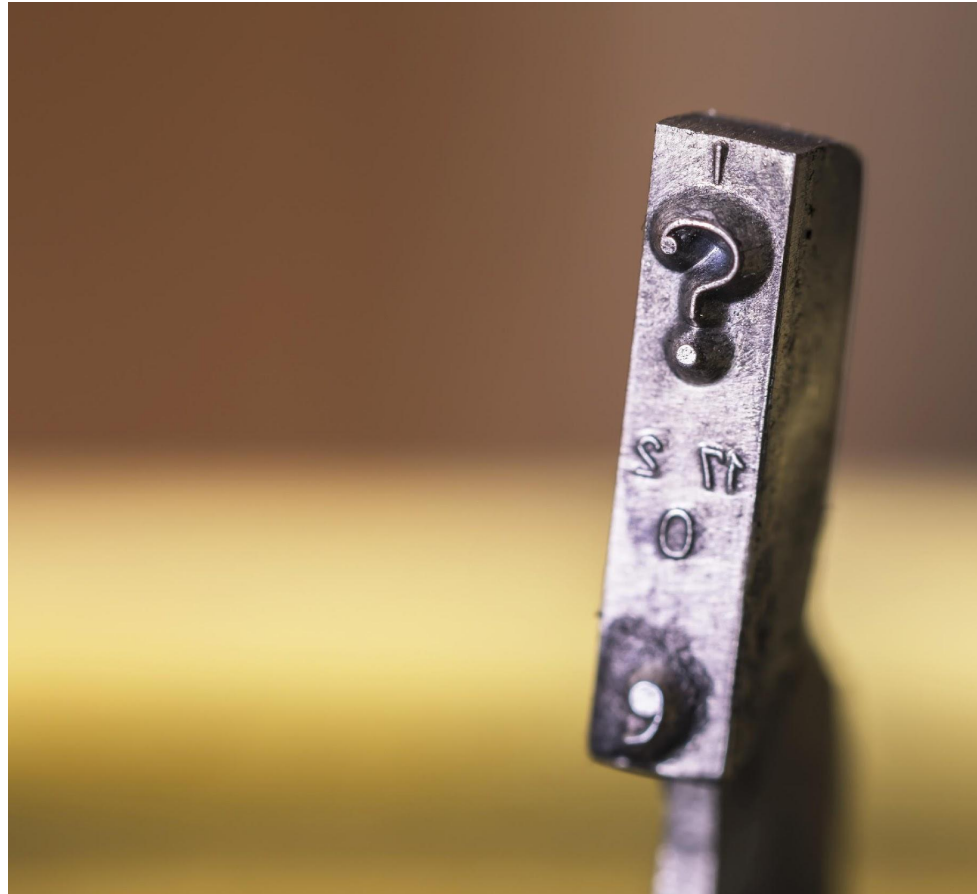


An individual identifies their role, completes the VTF assessment to determine learner level, and engages in learning tailored to them.

## Grab-and-Go



Individuals join Elevate and access resources on an as-needed basis. Resources are organized around the 15 change areas of the VTF.



QUESTIONS?



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# THANK YOU!

Please take a moment to complete a brief evaluation that will help us improve future learning opportunities.



# THANK YOU!

## NEXT SESSIONS

March 10, 2026 2–3 PM ET (Session 2): **Health Centers as Age-Friendly Health Systems**

March 17, 2026 2–3 PM ET (Session 3): **Advancing Age-Friendly Care in Health Centers: Implementation, Success Stories, and Lessons from PACE**



NATIONAL CENTER  
FOR EQUITABLE CARE FOR ELDERNS

