



# NQF's 2017 Consensus Development Process (CDP) Redesign

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# Changes to the CDP\*

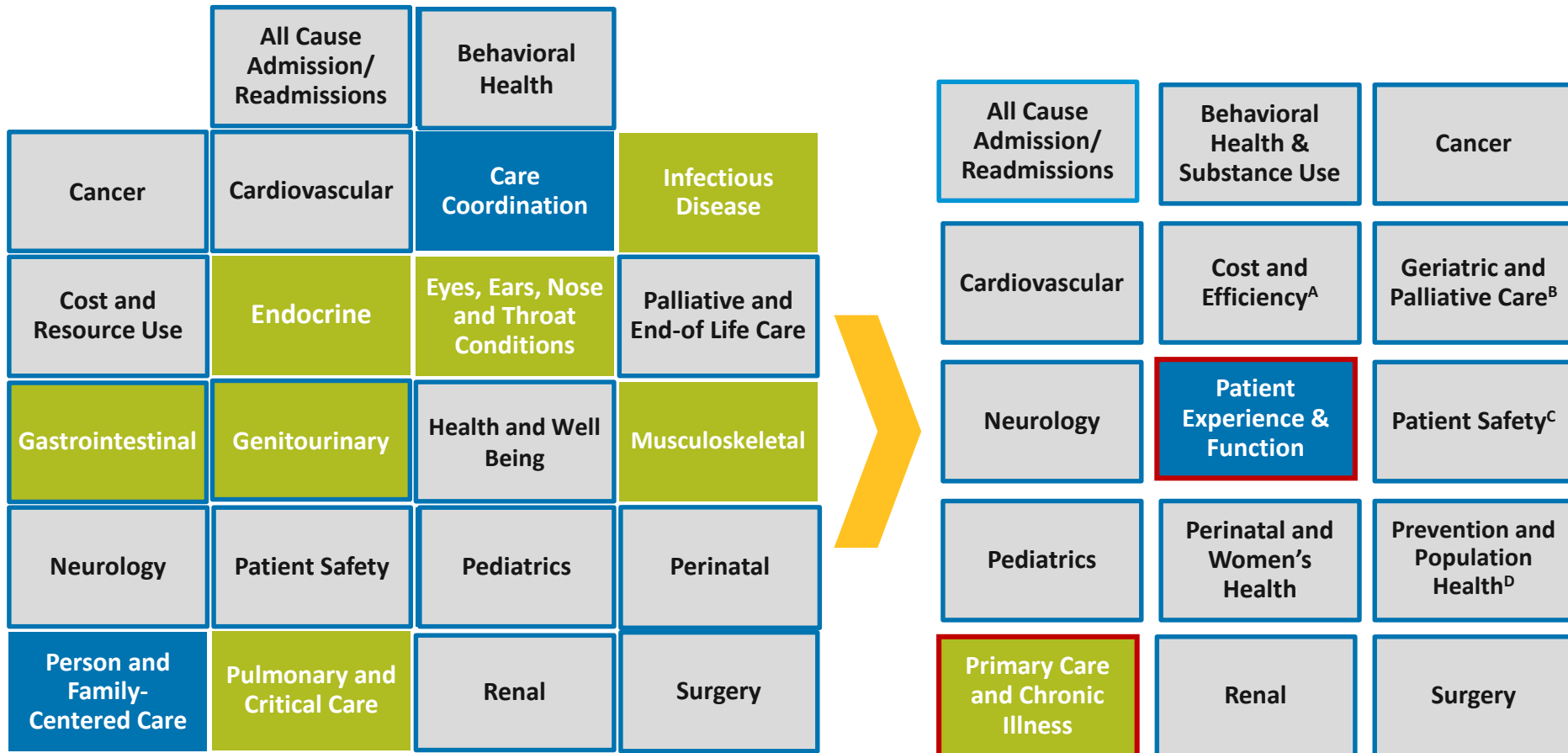
- More frequent measure submission opportunities
- New intent to submit process
- A newly-formed NQF Scientific Methods Panel to augment committees' review of reliability and validity
- Expanded commenting period—with Member support/non-support
- Streamlined technical report
- Enhancements in stakeholder training and education

**\*All changes effective as of October 2017**

# More Frequent Measure Submission Opportunities

- Two measure submission opportunities (cycles) for every topic area, each year
  - *November and April*
- Maximum of 12 measures evaluated by each standing committee in each cycle
- Consolidated measure review topical areas from 22 to 15
  - *Grouped smaller, cross-cutting clinical areas, e.g. GI & GU, EENT, and Musculoskeletal, into comprehensive Primary and Chronic Illness portfolio*
  - *Re-distributed measures to committees with needed expertise*
  - *Clinical area expert reviewers will be assigned to evaluate measures as needed*

# Measure Review Topic Areas



<sup>A</sup> Cost & Efficiency will include efficiency-focused measures from other domains

<sup>B</sup> Geriatric & Palliative Care includes pain-focused measures from other domains

<sup>C</sup> Patient Safety will include acute infectious disease and critical measures

<sup>D</sup> Prevention and Population Health is formerly Health and Well Being

  Denotes expanded topic area

# Intent to Submit

- Measure stewards/developers required to notify NQF at least 3 months prior to the measure submission deadline
- Implementation
  - *Soft launch – Cycle 1 2017 (November 2017 submission deadlines)*
  - *Full launch – Cycle 2 2018 (April 2018 submission deadlines)*

# Scientific Methods Panel

## Charge

- Conduct evaluation of complex measures for the criterion of Scientific Acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results
  - *Promote more consistent evaluations of Scientific Acceptability criterion*
  - *Reduce standing committee burden*
  - *Promote greater participation of consumers, patients, and purchasers on NQF standing committees*
- Serve in an advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues, including those related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and measurement approaches

# Scientific Methods Panel

## Process

- NQF staff assign measures to panel members for review based on relevant expertise, availability, and disclosures
- A minimum of three panel members will independently evaluate each measure
  - *The majority recommendation from the three evaluations will serve as the overall assessment of reliability and validity.*
  - *If there is substantial disagreement in the ratings between the three reviewers, the panel co-chairs will evaluate the measure and determine the overall recommendation from the panel.*
  - *As per the current measure evaluation process, information about measures being evaluated will continue to be posted on NQF's public webpages.*

# Scientific Methods Panel

## Ensuring Constituency of Evaluations

- Scientific Methods Panel members will,
  - *receive guidance document that outlines charge, terms, roles and responsibilities and instructions on evaluating measures for scientific acceptability (similar to standing committees guidance)*
  - *Use the same algorithms for rating reliability and validity as used by standing committees*
  - *Use template worksheet to aid their evaluations*
- Panel co-chairs will provide additional evaluations if there is disagreement on the ratings among the panel reviewers.
- NQF will convene the Panel monthly to discuss methodological issues within the context of NQF's evaluation criteria.

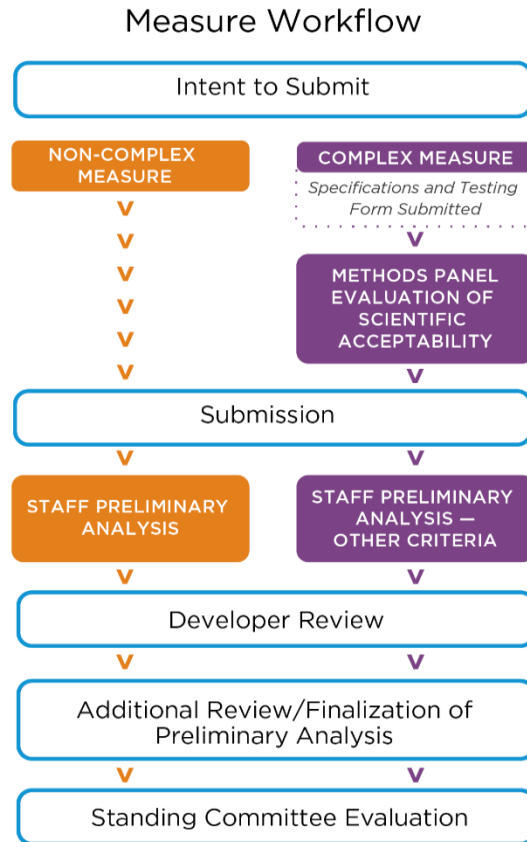


# Scientific Methods Panel

## Expected Workload

- NQF anticipates that each Panel member will evaluate the scientific acceptability of 15-20 measures per year (depending on availability, need for recusal, expertise, etc.)
- Panel members will participate on monthly webinars and an annual in-person meeting to discuss methodologies and other testing-related issues, provide guidance regarding these issues, and promote consistency in the evaluation of measures against NQF's endorsement criteria.

# Scientific Acceptability Review



# Commenting, Technical Report and Training and Education

- One extended commenting period
  - *NQF members will have the opportunity to express their support/or not for each measure*
- Technical report less dense and will include most relevant information (e.g. measure summaries, specifications)
- More training and education opportunities for all stakeholders

# New Consensus Development Process (CDP)

Consensus Development Process:  
Two Cycles Every Contract Year

