



## **2017 Consensus Development Process Redesign**

### **Executive Summary**

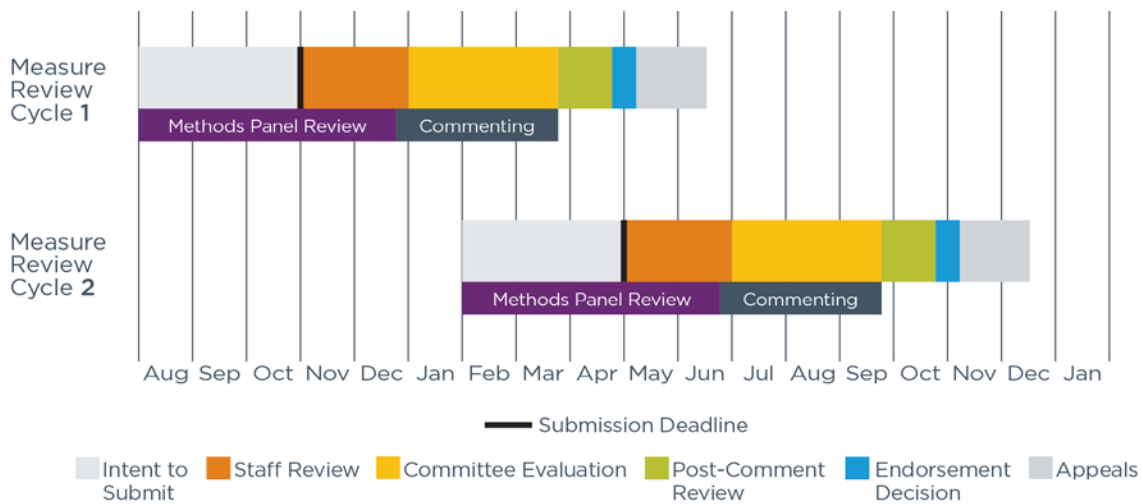
The National Quality Forum’s multi-step Consensus Development Process (CDP) is essential to providing a usable portfolio of measures that meets NQF’s rigorous measure evaluation criteria and ensures that measures integrated into HHS’ public reporting and pay-for-performance initiatives are up-to-date, reflective of the current evidence, reliable and valid, useful for accountability and quality improvement, and feasible. Since the first version of the CDP (approved in July 2000), NQF has continuously refined its process to address the needs of CMS, NQF members, and the healthcare industry more broadly. Many of these refinements have been incremental and others more substantive, requiring pilot testing and substantial operational changes. However, CMS and other stakeholders have raised concerns about the agility of the CDP – specifically, the time from measure submission to measure endorsement and the timeliness of measure evaluation/wait time for available projects (which in some cases is three or more years).

In an effort to address these concerns, NQF hosted a Kaizen process improvement event in May 2017 to explore opportunities for a more agile and efficient CDP for measure endorsement. NQF, in collaboration with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), invited more than 40 healthcare stakeholders from the public and private sectors, including experts from other federal agencies, NQF’s standing committees, and organizations that develop measures, to explore opportunities for:

- Improved coordination among CMS, developers, and NQF to better facilitate timely evaluation of measures
- Increased opportunities for submission and timely review of measures
- Reduced cycle time of the CDP
- Improved flow of information between the CDP and Measure Applications Partnership (MAP) processes

## Proposed Redesign

### Consensus Development Process: Two Cycles Every Contract Year



Based on the outputs from the process improvement event, NQF will undergo a significant CDP redesign that incorporates on-going measure submission opportunities. Offering more continuous and predictable submission pathways can increase the timeliness of endorsement decisions for measures that will drive value and fill prioritized gaps.

Other significant proposed changes to the CDP include:

| Proposed Changes   | Implementation Timing |
|--|-----------------------|
| • <b>Increase and improve stakeholder training and education</b>   | Summer 2017           |
| • <b>Improve CDP and MAP information exchange and access</b>   | Summer 2017-2019      |
| • <b>Implement formal process for developers to inform NQF of their intent to submit measures</b>  | Fall 2017             |
| • <b>Form a new NQF Scientific Methods panel to augment Standing Committees' review of measure testing</b>                                 | Fall 2017             |
| • <b>Implement continuous commenting and member expression of support</b>  | Beginning Fall 2017   |
| • <b>Revise and streamline technical report content and structure</b>  | Fall 2017             |
| • <b>Designate Standing Committee to render final endorsement decisions<sup>1</sup></b>  | TBD                   |
| • <b>Change CSAC's role to include oversight of CDP and adjudication of appeals<sup>2</sup>; and disband the Appeals Board<sup>3</sup></b> | TBD                   |

NQF will not implement all changes immediately, as this will require significant resources, input from NQF's Governance Committee and Board of Directors (e.g., changes to the standing committee, CSAC

and Appeals Board's roles), and design and testing to ensure that the process works as intended for all stakeholders. However, NQF will initiate a phased implementation in order to monitor these recommendations to assess outcomes and ensure a more agile and effective process.

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<sup>1</sup> If changes to the roles of the Standing Committee and the CSAC are approved, execution of these changes will be phased and implemented at a later date.

<sup>2</sup> CSAC will continue to oversee the CDP.

<sup>3</sup> If the change in the role of the Appeals Board is approved, execution of this change will be phased and implemented at a later date.