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Scientific Methods Panel Advisory Web Meeting

April 27, 2022

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Housekeeping Reminders

- This is a Webex meeting with audio and video capabilities:
  - **Meeting link:** https://nqf.webex.com/nqf/j.php?MTID=mf0f9e66bf312d5c985cedc081c8dbc06
  - **Meeting number:** 2349 948 4804
  - **Password**: MScAEvent
  - Optional: Dial 1-844-621-3956 and enter passcode 2349 984 4804
  - Please place yourself on mute when you are not speaking
- We encourage you to use the following features
  - Chat box: to message NQF staff or the group
  - Raise hand: to be called upon to speak
- We will conduct Scientific Methods Panel roll call once the meeting begins

If you are experiencing technical issues, please contact the NQF project team at **methodspanel@qualityforum.org**

Welcome

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Meeting Agenda

- Roll Call and Review of Meeting Objectives
- Continuous Improvement: Consideration and Discussion of Potential Improvements to the Consensus Development Process (CDP)
- Opportunity for Public Comment
- Next steps

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NQF Scientific Methods Panel Team

- Elizabeth Drye, MD, SM, Chief Scientific Officer
- Tricia Elliott, DHA, MBA, CPHQ, FNAHQ, Senior Managing Director
- Matthew Pickering, PharmD, Senior Director
- Poonam Bal, MHSA, Senior Director
- Mike DiVecchia, MBA, PMP, Director
- Hannah Ingber, MPH, Manager
- Gabby Kyle-Lion, MPH, Analyst

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Scientific Methods Panel (SMP) Members

- **David Nerenz, PhD, Co-chair**
- **Christie Teigland, PhD, Co-chair**
- J. Matt Austin, PhD
- John Bott, MBA, MSSW
- Daniel Deutscher, PT, PhD
- Marybeth Farquhar, PhD, MSN, RN
- Jeffrey Geppert, EdM, JD
- Laurent Glance, MD
- Joseph Hyder, MD
- Sherrie Kaplan, PhD, MPH
- Joseph Kunisch, PhD, RN-BC, CPHQ
- Paul Kurlansky, MD
- Zhenqiu Lin, PhD
- Jack Needleman, PhD
- Eugene Nuccio, PhD
- Sean O'Brien, PhD
- Jennifer Perloff, PhD
- Patrick Romano, MD, MPH
- Sam Simon, PhD
- Alex Sox-Harris, PhD, MS
- Ronald Walters, MD, MBA, MHA, MS
- Terri Warholak, PhD, RPh, CPHQ, FAPhA
- Eric Weinhandl, PhD, MS
- Susan White, PhD, RHIA, CHDA

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Meeting Objectives

- Review and consider stakeholder feedback to-date for continuous improvement to the CDP
- Describe NQF's aims for improving the CDP
- Consider ways in which changes to the SMP review process can improve the CDP

Continuous Improvement:

Consideration and Discussion of Potential Changes to the CDP

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What we are hearing from stakeholders*

**Stakeholders include measure developers and stewards, members of NQF-convened bodies, and NQF staff*

- The CDP process is resource-intensive and unpredictable to developers/stewards.
- There are inconsistencies within the SMP (i.e., across subgroups) and between the SMP and topic-area Standing Committees.
- Consider a revamped role for SMP — in particular, have staff do the review of technical requirements (i.e., ensuring testing aligns with the measure as-specified) before coming to SMP.
- Have measures assessed as either meeting scientific acceptability (i.e., reliability and validity) standards or not, rather than using High, Moderate, Low, or Insufficient ratings.
- Developers do not have enough time between SMP review and full measure submission to incorporate SMP feedback (ranging from less than 1 week – 2 weeks).
- Developers seek technical assistance from SMP, which may not always occur.
- SMP members' review burden is too high. SMP members have short timelines to review multiple complex measures.

Discussion:

- **What are your reactions to this feedback?**
- **Based on this feedback, what are areas for improvement within CDP and SMP?**

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Aims of CDP Redesign

- Strengthen consistency and science oversight
- Lower burden for developers through shortened cycle, technical assistance
- Increase overall efficiencies
- Enhance experience for and decrease burden on volunteer committee members
- Address staff pain points

Examples of Possible Process Revisions

1. *Standing Committee Reviews Relevance/Importance First (e.g., the conceptual model)*
2. *SMP Members Participate in Standing Committee Measure Evaluations*
3. *SMP advises on standards and individual measures*

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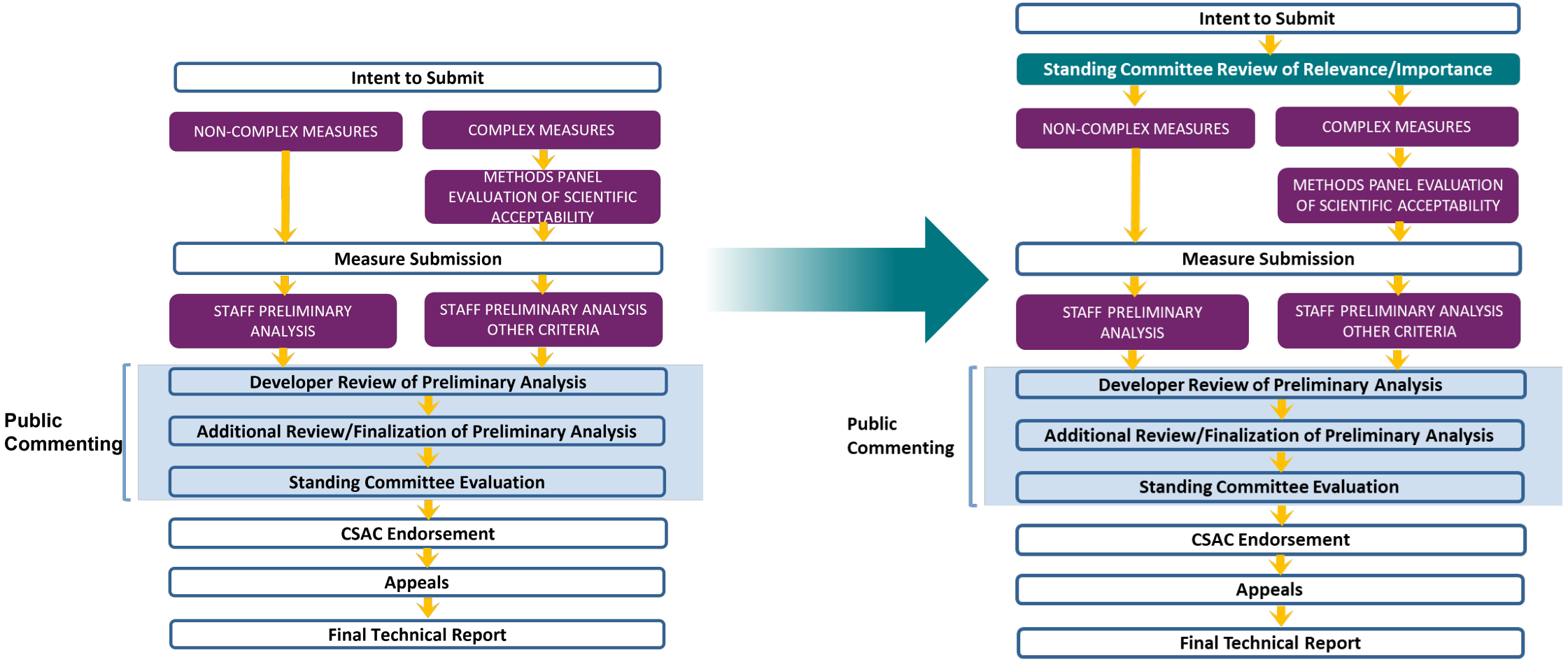
Example 1: Standing Committee Reviews Relevance/Importance First (e.g., the conceptual model)



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Example 1: Advantages of Potential Near-term Process Changes

CDP Redesign Aim	SMP reviews measures after the Standing Committee reviews for clinical relevance/importance
Strengthen consistency	• Clarity on measure importance and clinical relevance for validity ✓
Lower burden to developers	• Adds an additional meeting ✗
Increase efficiency/ decrease cost	• Increases the efficiency of the process ✓
Enhance volunteer experience	• Potentially review fewer measures in a cycle ✓
Address staff pain points	• Adds an additional meeting ✗

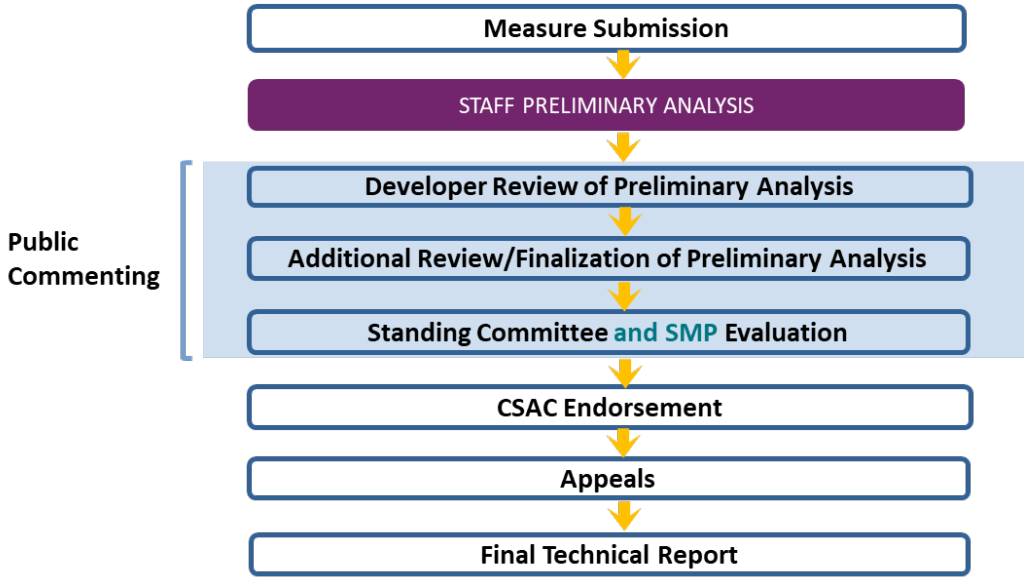
Discussion:

- **What are your reactions to having the SMP review scientific acceptability after the Standing Committee reviews the measure for clinical relevance and importance?**

Example 2: SMP Members Participate in Standing Committee Measure Evaluations

Potential revised Standing Committee measure evaluation process:

- **Preliminary analysis (PA):** NQF staff will prepare a PA and offer preliminary ratings for each criteria
- **Individual (preliminary) evaluation:** Each Standing Committee **and assigned SMP member** will conduct an in-depth evaluation on all measures under review (typically ~3-8 measures)
- NQF staff compiles the individual evaluation comments into a measure worksheet with a summary of all members' preliminary evaluations
- The entire Standing Committee, **including assigned SMP member**, will discuss and rate/vote on each measure against the NQF measure evaluation criteria and make recommendations for endorsement



Example 2: Advantages of Potential Near-term Process Changes

CDP Redesign Aim	SMP Member Participation in Standing Committee Measure Evaluations
Strengthen consistency	• Promotes consistency between SMP and Standing Committees ✓
Lower burden to developers	• Measures are reviewed in one full sweep ✓
Increase efficiency/ decrease cost	• Increases the efficiency of the process ✓
Enhance volunteer experience	• Review fewer measures ✓
Address staff pain points	• Decreases review steps for each measure ✓

Discussion:

- **What are your reactions to having SMP members participate within Standing Committee measure evaluations?**

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Example 3: SMP advises on standards and individual measures

The SMP currently has two specific charges:

1. Evaluate complex measures for the criterion of scientific acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results
2. Serve in an advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and emerging measurement approaches

The SMP would:

1. Evaluate complex measures ***in an advisory capacity*** for the criterion of scientific acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results
2. Advise developers on changes needed
3. Continue to advise NQF on methodologic issues, standards, and emerging measurement science

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Example 3: Advantages of Potential Near-term Process Changes

CDP Redesign Aim	SMP advises on standards and individual measures
Strengthen Consistency	• Clarifies guidelines ☑
Lower burden to developers	• Assists at front-end • Lowers failure rate ☑
Increase efficiency/ decrease cost	• Shortens process ☑
Enhance volunteer experience	• Reduces preparation • Increases impact ☑
Address staff pain points	• Decreases review steps for each measure ☑

Discussion:

- **What are your reactions to this approach, noting the advantages and disadvantages?**
- **If the SMP moved to a solely advisory function, how would you stage the technical assistance (i.e., quarterly, bi-annually)?**
- **Are there other approaches or strategies that will improve the SMP's advisory capacity?**

Opportunity for Public Comment

Next Steps

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Next Steps and Reminders

- NQF staff creates a meeting summary of today's meeting
- NQF staff drafts SMP changes for SMP and broader stakeholder review
- Upcoming SMP Meetings
  - May 24 from 12PM-2PM EST
  - July 14 from 12PM-2PM EST

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Potential Items for Future SMP Discussion

- Face validity testing requirements and acceptability
- Formative vs. reflective composite models
- Incorporating intended use into scientific acceptability discussions
- High, moderate, low, and insufficient ratings and their use
- Further clarification on divergent testing results at the patient/encounter and accountable entity levels
- Appropriate testing sample size requirements
- Impact analysis

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Project Contact Info

- Email: MethodsPanel@qualityforum.org
- NQF phone: 202-783-1300
- Project page: http://www.qualityforum.org/Measuring_Performance/Scientific_Methods_Panel.aspx
- SharePoint site: https://share.qualityforum.org/portfolio/ScientificMethodsPanel/SitePages/Home.aspx

Adjourn

THANK YOU.

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Appendix

Background: Current State of NQF's CDP

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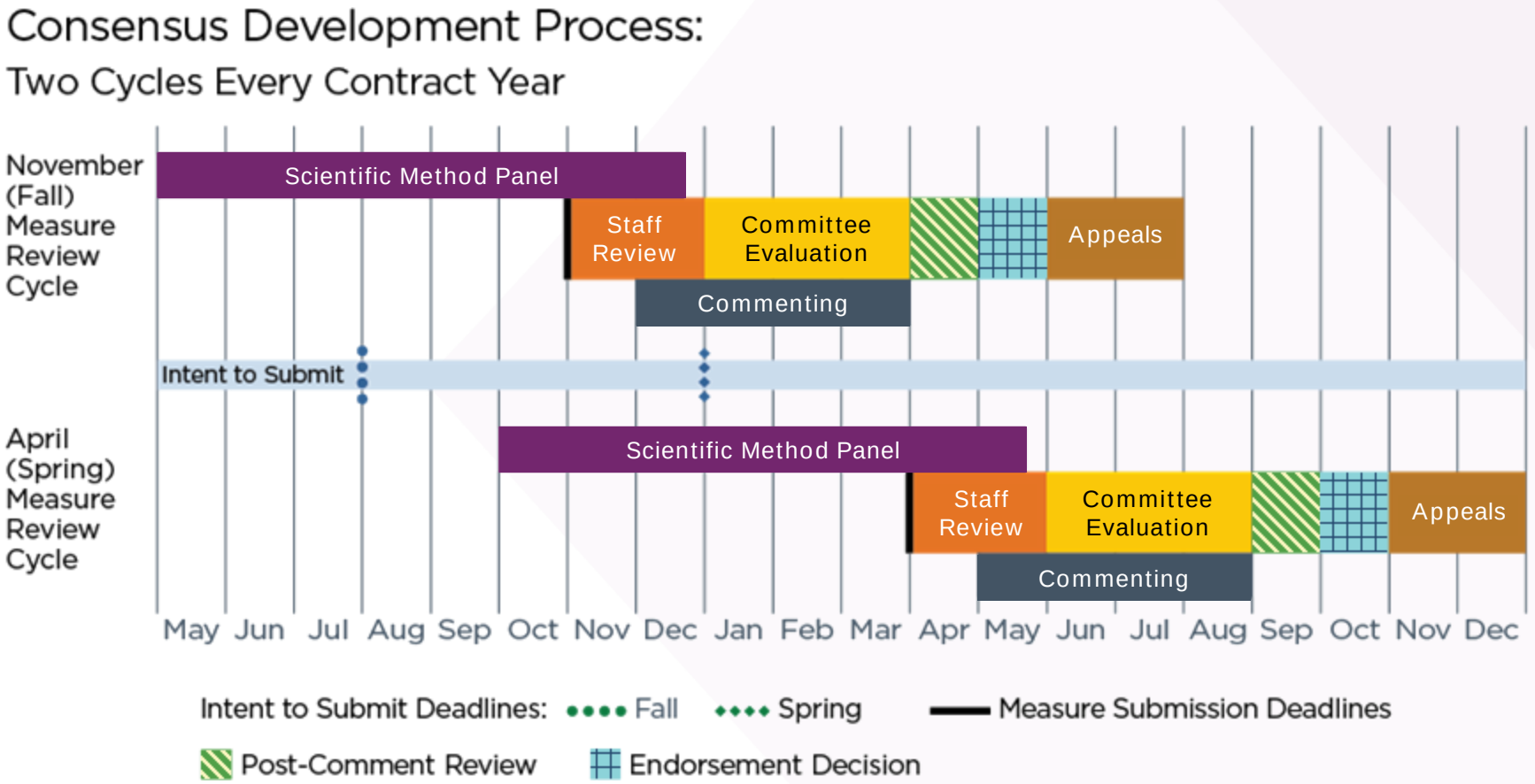
Current State:

NQF runs two complex, overlapping endorsement cycles per year



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Current State:

14 CDP Standing Committees review measures in spring/fall cycles

CDP Topic Areas / Standing Committees	Spring 2022	Fall 2021	Spring 2021	Fall 2020	Spring 2020	Fall 2019	Spring 2019	Fall 2018
All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions	2	-	6	8	5	1	-	6
Behavioral Health and Substance Use	7	1	1	5	3	7	6	10
Cancer	-	1	1	-	3	8	-	4
Cardiovascular	-	-	2	2	6	5	7	6
Cost and Efficiency	3	-	8	4	6	-	3	4
Geriatrics and Palliative Care	6	4	-	5	-	1	4	3
Neurology	-	-	2	1	-	5	1	-
Patient Experience and Function	-	-	2	2	4	2	16	9
Patient Safety	7	6	6	5	3	4	9	11
Perinatal and Women's Health	5	-	4	2	-	1	10	-
Prevention and Population Health	8	-	2	1	2	2	-	5
Primary Care and Chronic Illness	6	1	1	8	4	6	-	7
Renal	9	1	2	2	3	1	7	-
Surgery	-	5	-	8	1	1	7	16
Total Number of Measures by Cycle	**53**	**19**	**37**	**53**	**40**	**44**	**70**	**81**

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Intent to Submit

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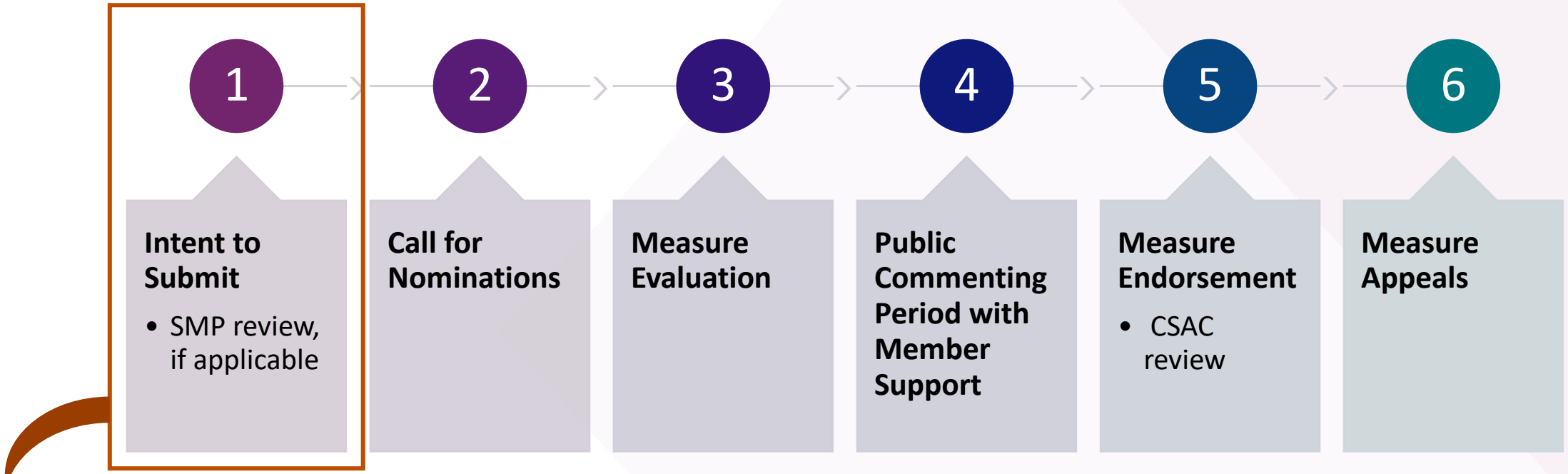
Current State of NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP)

6 Steps for Measure Endorsement



During Intent to Submit, measure stewards or developers must notify NQF of their intent to submit at least three months prior to the desired cycle's full measure submission deadline. This notification signals the measure steward's or developer's readiness for endorsement consideration and allows adequate opportunity for technical assistance prior to submitting measures for evaluation.

As part of the Intent to Submit process, stewards or developers will submit full measure specifications to NQF and testing information to NQF, along with other information as needed (e.g., a feasibility assessment for eCQMs)

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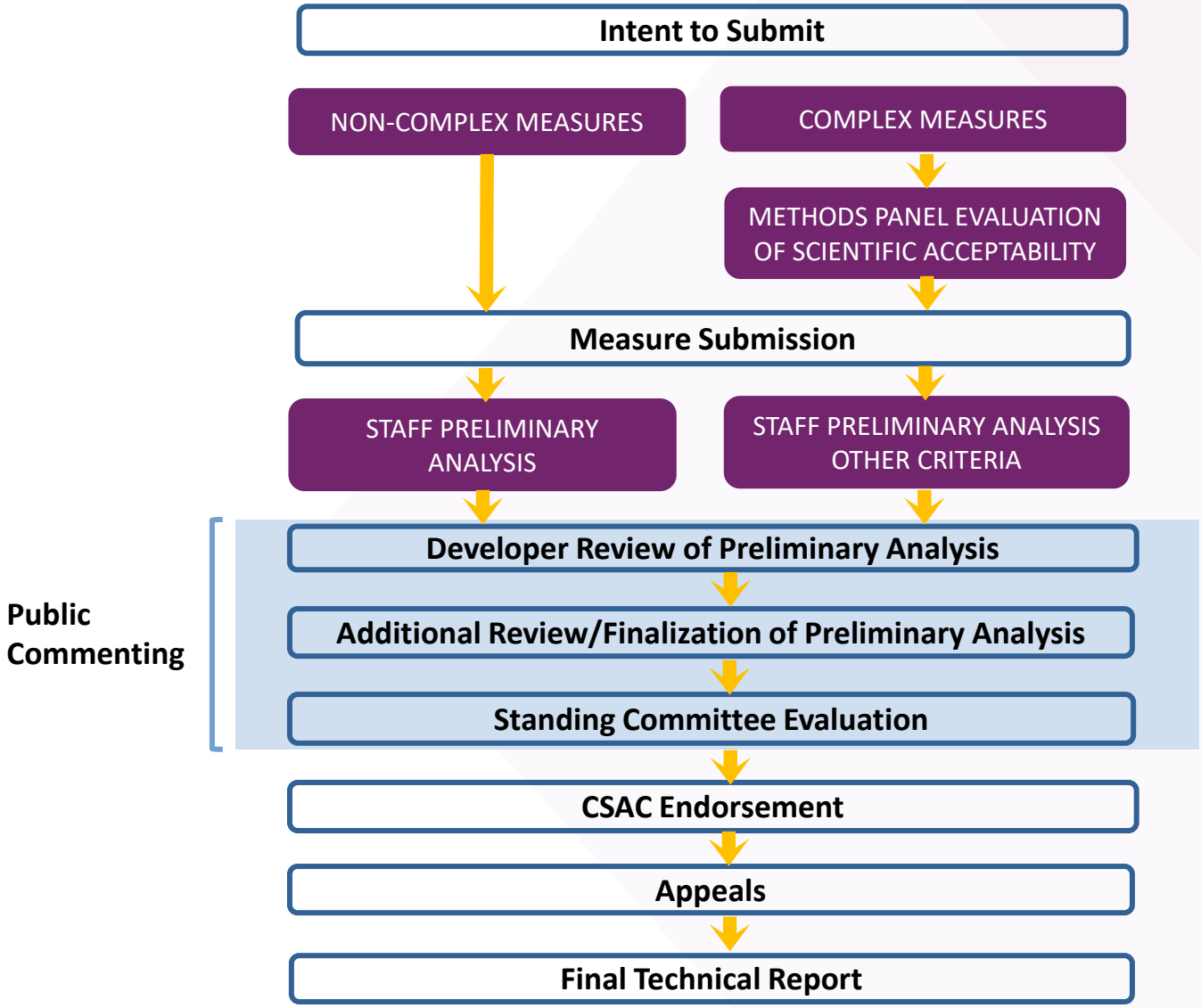
Measure Evaluation Workflow



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NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP) Measure Evaluation

Complex Measures

- Outcome measures, including intermediate clinical outcomes
- Instrument-based measures (e.g., PRO-PMs)
- Cost/resource use measures
- Efficiency measures (those combining concepts of resource use and quality)
- Composite measures

Noncomplex Measures

- Process measures
- Structural measures
- Previously endorsed complex measures with no changes/updates to the specifications or testing

Complex Measure Evaluation by the SMP

- Complex measures include composite, instrument-based (including PRO-PM), cost/resource, efficiency, and outcome (including intermediate clinical outcome) measures
- Complex measures are reviewed by the SMP when:
  - Newly submitted
  - Maintenance measures with updated testing
  - NQF staff requests (e.g., expert opinion needed to support review of testing, review of unfamiliar methodology)

Complex Measure Evaluation by the SMP (continued)

- The SMP has two specific charges:
  - Evaluate complex measures for the criterion of scientific acceptability, with a focus on reliability and validity analyses and results; and
  - Serve in an advisory capacity to NQF on methodologic issues related to measure testing, risk adjustment, and emerging measurement approaches
- The SMP provides evaluations and ratings of **reliability** and **validity** to the Standing Committees
  - Measures that did not get a "pass" or are “consensus not reached” for either reliability or validity during preliminary analyses are discussed at the SMP evaluation meetings and receive a revote

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Post-SMP Evaluation

- All eligible measures reviewed by the SMP can be discussed by the Standing Committee
  - Standing Committee will evaluate and make recommendations for endorsement for:
    - » Measures that pass SMP review
    - » Measures where the SMP did not reach consensus
  - Measures that did not pass the SMP can be pulled by a Standing Committee member for further discussion
- Eligibility will be confirmed by NQF Staff and SMP co-chairs
- Measures that failed the SMP due to the following will not be eligible for revote:
  - » Inappropriate methodology or testing approach applied to demonstrate reliability or validity
  - » Incorrect calculations or formulas used for testing
  - » Description of testing approach, results, or data is insufficient for SMP to apply the criteria
  - » Appropriate levels of testing not provided or otherwise did not meet NQF's minimum evaluation requirements

Standing Committee Measure Evaluation Process

- Standing Committee members are notified of the SMP evaluation results (if complex measures were reviewed by the SMP)
- Standing Committee members can pull measures that did not pass for discussion and revote for eligible measures
- Any measure pulled by a Standing Committee member will be discussed
  - Request should be submitted with a brief rationale
- Some measures may be eligible for revote by the Standing Committee
  - Eligibility will be determined by NQF Staff and SMP co-chairs

Post-Intent to Submit:

Full Measure Submission

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NQF Process After Full Measure Submission

- NQF staff performs quality checks on measure submission
- Standing Committee members complete measure-specific disclosures of interest
- NQF staff creates a measure worksheet for each measure

Standing Committee Measure Evaluation Process (1)

Three-week review period for Measure Worksheets:

- Measure Information Form (MIF): describes measure and specifications (e.g., title, description, numerator, denominator)
- Preliminary analysis by NQF staff
- Standing Committee preliminary ratings
- NQF member and public comments
- Information submitted by the developer

Standing Committee Measure Evaluation Process (2)

- **Preliminary analysis (PA)**: NQF staff will prepare a PA form and offer preliminary ratings for each criteria
  - The PA will be used as a starting point for the Standing Committee evaluation
  - SMP will complete review of Scientific Acceptability criterion for complex measures
- **Individual evaluation**: Each Standing Committee member will conduct an in-depth evaluation on all measures under review

Standing Committee Measure Evaluation Process (3)

- **NQF staff** compiles the Standing Committee's comments and redistributes measure worksheet with summary of all members' preliminary evaluations
- **Lead discussants** are assigned to each measure for measure evaluation meetings
- **Measure evaluation and recommendations at the in-person/web meeting**: The entire Standing Committee will discuss and rate each measure against the NQF measure evaluation criteria and make recommendations for endorsement

Standing Committee Measure Evaluation Process (4)

- **Staff prepare a draft report** detailing the Standing Committee's discussion and recommendations
  - This report will be released for a 30-day public and member comment period
- **Post-comment call**: The Standing Committee will re-convene for a post-comment call to discuss comments submitted
- **Final endorsement decisions by CSAC**
- **Opportunity for public to appeal endorsement decision**