

September 18, 2024, Endorsement and Maintenance (E&M) Committee Orientation Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

**Q: As a patient/patient advocate on dialysis, how can I be more effective in my group?
Does PQM have patient mentors to help me acclimate to the committee?**

A: As a patient/patient advocate, we highly encourage you to share your personal experiences, as you feel comfortable, and how you would find the measure up for discussion to be purposeful or impactful to the patient population. The patient voice brings a unique, lived experience to the discussion and we greatly value the contribution that our patients/patient partners can bring to the discussion. Prior to Advisory or Recommendation Group meetings, some questions patient partners can think about to prepare include:

- As a patient or caregiver, do you have experience with the measure topic (e.g., diabetes, medication adherence, hospitalizations after an outpatient surgery) that you would like to share?
- Do you think the measure is meaningful to patients and will help to improve their care?
- Is the measure respectful of and responsive to individual patient preferences, needs, and values?
- Does the measure have aspects that may be difficult for patients to understand?
- Does the measure have aspects that may be burdensome to patients?

We currently do not have patient mentors, but we are continuously seeking to improve the Endorsement and Maintenance (E&M) process, making it more accessible to the patient community.

In addition, the role of the Patient Representative Co-Chair is to ensure the patient community voice is heard and considered. During meetings, the Patient Representative Co-Chair will help to guide patient partners in sharing their experiences. If there are further questions on how you can effectively contribute to a measure discussion or at a committee meeting, please reach out to PQMsupport@battelle.org.

Finally, the E&M team will be hosting a Patient and Patient Caregiver Engagement Educational Webinar in January 2025, so we highly encourage you to attend this webinar to further learn how you can be more effective in your committee. The E&M team will share meeting information, including a registration link, by December 2024.

Q: Is it possible for the staff to always spell out all abbreviations first (e.g., MMS)?

A: We recognize that quality measurement has many abbreviations. As a best practice, we spell out abbreviations on their first use and use abbreviations thereafter in documents or slides. During presentations, staff will make an effort to consistently pronounce words fully instead of using abbreviations.

To clarify an abbreviation, refer to materials on our event page or consult the [Measures Management System \(MMS\) Hub Glossary](#), which lists commonly used terms.

Q: I just started working on a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) contract developing measures for selected quality programs. Am I allowed to review CMS measures from other programs, or do I need to decline reviews of all CMS measures?

A: Your role as a CMS contractor does not prevent you from reviewing CMS measures during the E&M process. Every cycle, the E&M team sends a [Measure-Specific Disclosure of Interest](#) form (MS-DOI) to all committee members. This form lists all the measures that will be reviewed by each respective committee and asks the committee member to disclose any potential [conflicts of interest](#). The E&M team requests that committee members disclose any conflict of interest related to the measures under review. If the situation poses a valid conflict of interest, we will ask that committee member to recuse themselves from voting on that measure (if they are on the Recommendation Group); however, they will still be able to participate in measure discussion. Advisory Group members with conflicts will be asked to state any disclosures at roll call but can fully participate in the discussion.

Q: In addition to evaluating measures submitted for E&M, does PQM manage the CMS Core Measure Process?

A: Battelle does not manage the Medicaid Adult and Core measure sets. For more information please see: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/performance-measurement/adult-and-child-health-care-quality-measures/index.html>.

The Core Quality Measures Collaborative (CQMC), a public-private partnership between AHIP (formerly known as America's Health Insurance Plans) and CMS, is currently convened by Battelle's Partnership for Quality Measurement (PQM) in its role as the consensus-based entity. For more information, please visit: <https://p4qm.org/CQMC>.

Q: I am a newly seated Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review (PRMR) committee member. Do I attend only PRMR events or both PRMR and E&M events?

A: As a PRMR committee member, you are only required to attend PRMR events. You are not required to attend any E&M events, although you are welcome to register for public sessions (such as the Public Comment Listening Session) to provide feedback for measures under review each E&M cycle.

Q: Along those lines, on slide 39, the evaluation rubric shows Equity as "optional". Why?

A: The Equity domain is a new domain for measure endorsement. The purpose of the Equity domain is to determine the extent to which a measure can identify differences in care for certain patient populations, which can be used to advance health equity and reduce disparities. It has

been optional for the past two E&M cycles and will become required starting in the Spring 2025 cycle. This allows us to give developers advance notice that this change is coming to allow adequate time on their end to make changes and adjustments. This also allows us to continue to conduct further research and build out guidance for developers regarding the Equity domain. Committee members can provide feedback for developers and stewards when considering certain disparities within their measure as part of the review process.

Q: Are developers able to introduce hospital measures via this process?

A: Yes. Under the E&M process, various care settings use measures, including the hospital setting.

Q: Can you clarify if it is an expectation for committee members to attend all three meetings (Public Comment Listening Session, Advisory Group Meeting, and Recommendation Group [Endorsement Meeting]) each cycle?

A: As a committee member, you are not required to attend and participate in these three meetings. If you are an Advisory Group member, you are only required to participate in the Advisory Group meeting. If you are a Recommendation Group member, you are only required to participate in the Recommendation Group endorsement meeting. Aside from your respective required meetings, you are more than welcome to attend the other meetings (e.g., Public Comment Listening Session). However, this is not required, and you will simply be listening, not actively participating in the discussion. If you are a co-chair, you will be expected to participate in the Advisory Group meeting and Recommendation Group endorsement meeting.

Q: How independent will the Recommendation Group review be if they first see Advisory Group recommendations prior to their own reviews? I mean will it influence their review if they see prior assessments/recommendations?

A: The purpose of the Recommendation Group independent reviews is to collect measure evaluations from the Recommendation Group members prior to the endorsement meeting. These reviews are independent from other Recommendation Group members and include the consideration of the staff preliminary assessments, the PQM measure evaluation rubric, public comments, and Advisory Group feedback. Recommendation Group members use these various inputs to come to their own conclusions about the measures under review, which the E&M team then aggregates and shares publicly prior to the Recommendation Group endorsement meeting. By doing so, the E&M team and co-chairs identify key areas for discussion, attempting to bring the independent perspectives of Recommendation Group members to consensus on an endorsement decision.

Q: For the non-negotiable considerations, I am assuming the staff wouldn't even send measures on to the committee to review? Or they go to the Advisory Group to say that we endorse the staff's assessment that it's a non-negotiable condition?

A: The E&M team reviews measures for completeness prior to them being shared with the E&M committees (see [Measure Submission Completeness Checklist](#) in the E&M Guidebook). For measures that have significant completeness issues, we work closely with the developers/stewards to pull them from review and offer technical assistance for submission to a future measure review cycle. In addition, if Battelle identifies significant concerns during the staff assessment, the E&M team will review to determine if the measure should move on in the E&M process. That said, those measures that move forward to an E&M committee may have some limitations identified by the staff assessments, some of which may involve non-negotiable issues (e.g., lack of a clear business case) that prohibit a measure from being endorsed, even with conditions. However, if the measure moves forward to the committee, the committee needs to make the determination if a measure should not be endorsed based on their assessment of the measure and by considering the various perspectives and experiences from others on the committee and public comment.

Q: For the public comment period, do the Advisory and Recommendation Groups have the ability to see the aggregated feedback from that Public Comment Listening Session?

A: Yes. The public comments received during the Public Comment Listening Session (and any comments submitted via the PQM website) will be posted under the respective measure's "Comment" section (please see Figure 1 to the right) on the [Submission Tool and Repository \(STAR\) Measure Database](#). The comment will be clearly titled to indicate the comment was received during the listening session. However, because the Advisory Group meetings occur during the 30-day public comment period, measures may still receive comments during and after the Advisory Group meetings.

The screenshot shows the 'STAR Measure Database' interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links: About, E&M, CQMC, PRMR, MSR, Measures, Public Comments, Get Involved, and Contact. Below this is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Submission Tool and Repository Measure Database. There are buttons for 'View', 'Edit', 'View Notes (0)', 'Details', and 'Reviews'. The main content area is for a measure titled 'Improvement in Management of Oral Medications' (CBE ID: 0176). It includes a project description, E&M Committee information, and a 'Rationale/Justification' section. Below this is a 'Next Maintenance Cycle' section (Spring 2029) and a 'Measure Description' section. At the bottom, there is a 'Public Comments' section with a table of comments. The table has columns for 'Measures Specs', 'Importance', 'Feasibility', 'Scientific Acceptability', 'Equity', 'Use & Usability', and 'Comments'. Two public comments are visible, both titled 'Public Comment Shared During May 29 Listening Session'. The first comment is from Janice Tufts, a patient partner, and the second is from a family friend of Janice Tufts.

Figure 1: Comment Section on STAR Database

Q: Is my understanding correct that the Measure Developer Workshop is optional for me, as a member of an Advisory Group?

A: Yes, that is correct. The Measure Developer Workshop is intended to be a resource for measure developers and stewards. E&M committee members from both Advisory and Recommendation Groups are welcome to join, although it is not required.

Q: How can we see who the other members of the committee are and what perspective they bring?

A: The committee rosters are posted on the PQM website. This reference includes which committee you are on, the perspective you represent, and to which group you are assigned (e.g., Advisory or Recommendation Group). The committee rosters for the Fall 2024-Spring 2025 cycles are linked below:

- [Primary Prevention Committee Roster](#)
- [Initial Recognition Committee Roster](#)
- [Management of Acute Events and Chronic Conditions Committee Roster](#)
- [Advanced Illness and Post-Acute Care Committee Roster](#)
- [Cost and Efficiency Committee Roster](#)

Q: It seems that a meeting placeholder was sent for December with no other information such as a Zoom link. When will that be updated?

A: Zoom links will be added to the respective calendar invites and event pages about 1 month prior to the meeting. Meeting materials (e.g., slides, agendas) will be posted to those event pages at least 1 week prior to the meeting.

Q: Where can we find the PQM Measure Evaluation Rubric?

A: The PQM Measure Evaluation Rubric can be found in [version 2.1 of Appendix D of the E&M Guidebook](#).

For the Fall 2024 cycle, the committees will use [version 1.2](#) of the rubric, and for the Spring 2025 cycle, committees will use version 2.1. Developers have had at least one cycle to prepare for any major requirements/changes we have made to the rubric.