



Partnership for
Quality Measurement

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Endorsement and Maintenance:

Enhancements to the Endorsement and Maintenance (E&M) Process for the Spring 2024 Cycle

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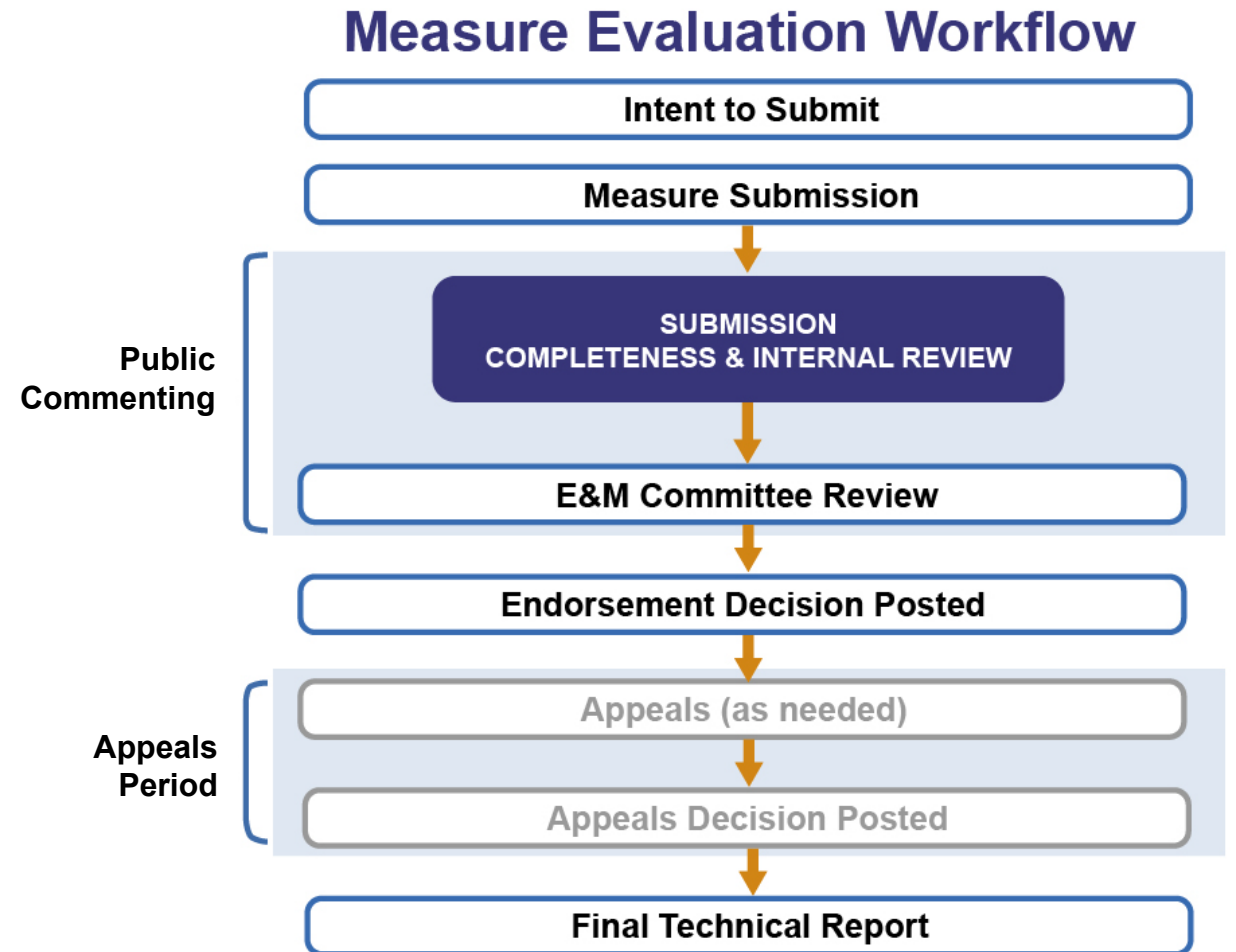
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Fall 2023 Process

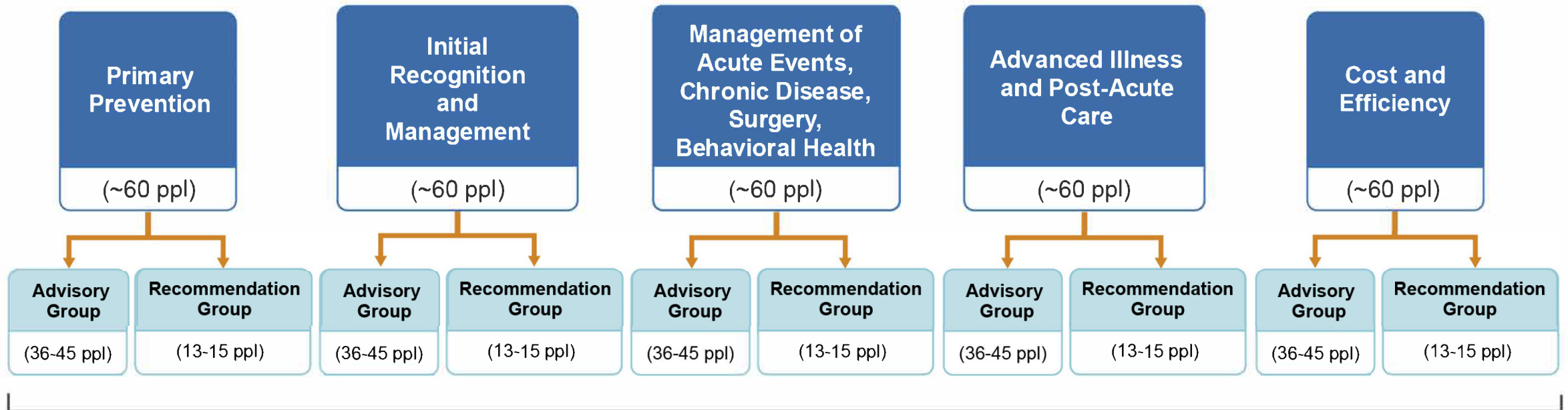


Six major steps:

1. Intent to Submit
2. Full Measure Submission
3. Staff Internal Review and Measure Public Comment Period
4. E&M Committee Independent Review
5. Endorsement Decision
6. Appeals Period (as warranted)



2023 E&M Committee Structure



- Advisory and Recommendation Groups provide individual preliminary reviews in advance of Endorsement Meeting
- Recommendation Group meets to review and discuss areas of non-consensus based on independent preliminary reviews and public comment
 - Both Groups vote on final endorsement decision

2023 Advisory and Recommendation Groups



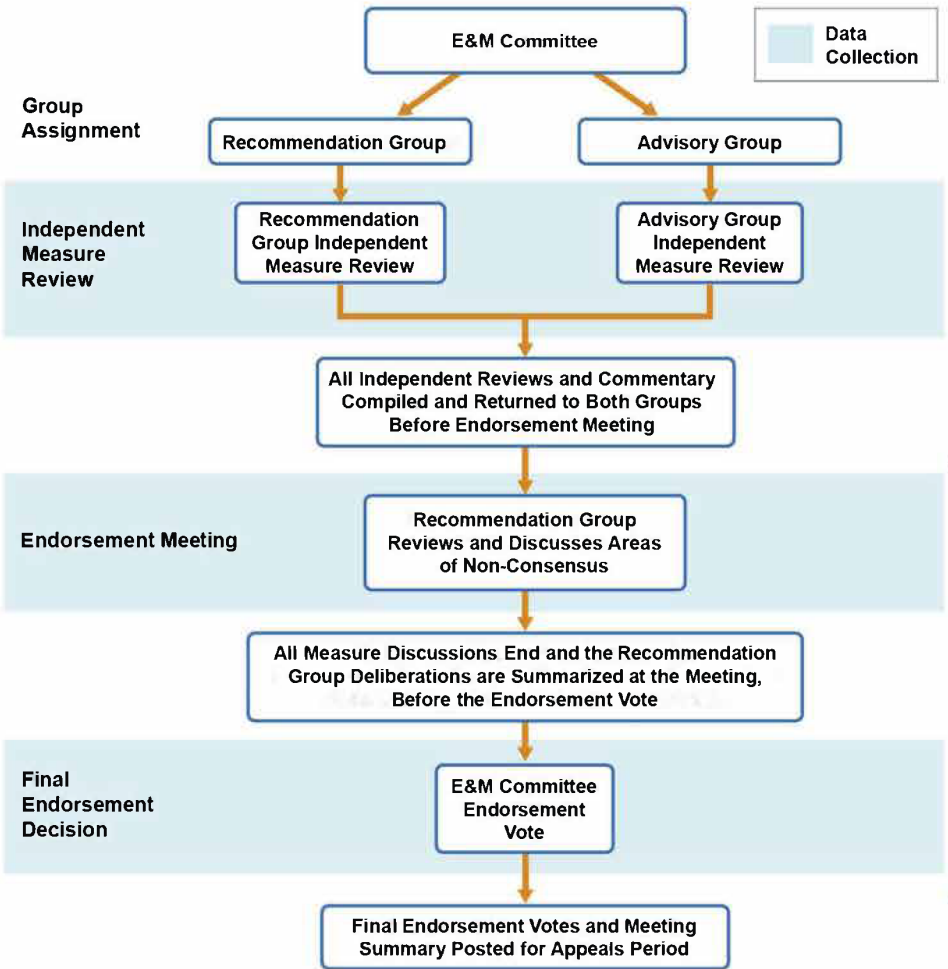
Advisory (Delphi) Group

- Members in this group **review and provide ratings and written recommendations on measures** prior to the Recommendation Group endorsement meeting.
- These inputs ensure that a larger number of voices contribute to the consensus-building process.
- The Advisory Group members **attend the Recommendation Group endorsement meeting** to listen to the Recommendation Group discussions and to **vote on endorsement decisions for measures** at the end of the meeting.

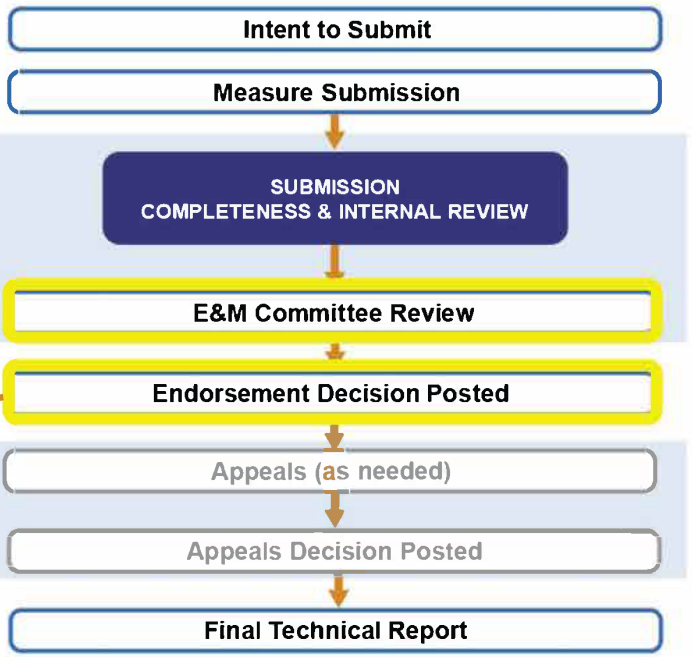
Recommendation (Nominal) Group

- Members in this group also **review and provide ratings and written recommendations on measures** prior to the Recommendation Group endorsement meeting.
- **Areas of disagreement** (i.e., lack of consensus) identified from the initial measure ratings from both groups will **inform the Recommendation Group discussions during the endorsement meeting.**
- Recommendation Group members will also **vote on endorsement decisions of measures** at the end of the meeting.

E&M Independent Review vs. Endorsement Meeting



Measure Evaluation Workflow



Fall 2023 Feedback

After the Fall 2023 endorsement meetings, Battelle received feedback on the new E&M process from committee members, measure developers/stewards, and other interested parties around:

- Concerns with limited ability of Advisory Group members to have a voice.
- Confusion on role clarity between Advisory Group and Recommendation Group members and between the Pre-Rulemaking Recommendations (PRMR) and the Endorsement and Maintenance processes.
- Challenges with submitting measure reviews
- Need for additional opportunities for developers/stewards to respond to comments prior to the endorsement meeting.



Battelle's Response to Fall 2023 Feedback



Taking effect in the **Spring 2024 cycle**, the proposed changes are intended to:

- **Enhance the engagement** and participation of Advisory Group members, patient partners, and members of the public;
- **Reduce burden** for E&M committee members (both Advisory and Recommendation Groups); and
- **Improve clarity** of roles for E&M committee members by aligning processes across both E&M and the PRMR.

1. Conduct Public Comment Listening Sessions

2. Host Advisory Group Meetings

3. Increase Recommendation Group Size

4. Change Voting Requirement

5. Retire Committee Independent Reviews Requirement

Comments Overview



- Public comment period on proposed changes was March 1 – 22.
- A total of 19 comments were received from 14 organizations and five individuals.
 - Comments were received by measure developers/stewards, specialty societies, academic institutions, patient advocacy organizations, etc.
 - Comments focused on various aspects of the proposed enhancements (Table 1).

Table 1. Number of Comments by Category

Comment Category	Number of Comments
Conduct Public Comment Listening Sessions	13
Host Advisory Group Meetings	18
Increase Recommendation Group Size	9
Change Voting Requirement	11
Retire Committee Independent Reviews Requirement	11

Organizations that Submitted Comments



- American Medical Association
- American Urological Association
- Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform
- Core Solutions
- Healthfirst
- Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG)
- Johns Hopkins Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality
- National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
- Optum Consulting
- PFCCpartners
- Pharmacy Quality Alliance (PQA)
- University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA)
- Vizient
- Yale Center for Outcomes Research and Evaluation (Yale CORE)



1. Conduct Public Comment Listening Sessions



Supportive Comments

5

Mixed Support

- Expectations and level of engagement of developers/stewards before, during, and after the Public Comment Listening Sessions.
- Consider the value-add with the added burden of additional meetings.

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1. Conduct Public Comment Listening Sessions

Continued 1



Spring 2024*	April	May	June	July	August	September
Listening Sessions						
Endorsement Meetings						

- We will host a series of Public Comment Listening Sessions prior to the close of the measure public comment period for that E&M cycle.
- Listening sessions are in addition to the written public comment opportunity and will be used to further capture additional public comment for E&M committee consideration.
- E&M committee members and measure developers/stewards are invited and encouraged to attend to listen to the comments.
- After the listening sessions, we will share the meeting transcripts and the comments posted on the PQM website with developers/stewards for written response.

2. Host Advisory Group Meetings



Supportive Comments

2

Mixed Support

- Expectations and level of engagement of developers/stewards before, during, and after the Advisory Group Meetings.
- Purpose and role of the Advisory Group.
- Using Advisory Group feedback during endorsement meetings.
- Added compensation.
- Scheduling of Advisory Group Meetings.

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2. Host Advisory Group Meetings

Continued 1



Spring 2024*	April	May	June	July	August	September
Listening Sessions						
Advisory Group Meetings						
Developer Responses						
Endorsement Meetings						

- Battelle will convene the Advisory Group members for each committee 1-2 months prior to the endorsement meetings.
- Developers/stewards will be able to answer questions during the meeting. Battelle will share a summary with developers/stewards for response.

3. Increase Recommendation Group Size



Supportive Comments

5

Mixed Support

- Ensure proper subject matter expertise.
- Purpose and role of the Advisory Group.
- Lack of assurance that the full range of knowledge and perspectives are represented on the E&M committee.

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3. Increase Recommendation Group Size

Continued 1



- As needed, the membership of the Recommendation Group may be augmented with individuals with specialized expertise recruited from other E&M committees.
- Developers/stewards are encouraged to invite their own subject matter experts.



Roster Category	2024 Advisory Group Targets	2024 Recommendation Group Targets
Patients, families, caregivers, patient advocates	8	4
Clinicians, including physicians, nurses, pharmacists, physical therapists, etc.	3	5
Facilities and institutions, including accountable care organizations (ACOs), hospitals/hospital systems and post-acute/long-term care facilities	3	5
Purchasers and plans (state, federal and/or private)	5	3
Rural health experts	2	2
Health equity experts	2	2
Researchers in health services, alternative payment models and population health	6	2
Other interested parties (representatives of electronic health record [EHR] vendors, provider and facility associations, and experts in areas such as quality improvement/ implementation science, care coordination, patient safety, behavioral health, and national policy makers)	6	2
Total	35*	25*

4. Change Voting Requirement



Supportive Comments

6

Mixed Support

- Purpose and role of the Advisory Group.
- Quorum challenges due to Battelle not asking for availability of committee members prior to scheduling the meeting.
- Stagger E&M and PRMR meetings to further reduce burden and mitigate quorum challenges.

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4. Change Voting Requirement

Continued 1



- During the Fall 2023 cycle, quorum challenges were largely due to Advisory Group members leaving the endorsement meetings.
- We will convene the Advisory Group separately and require voting within the Recommendation Group only.
- This new approach will further support engagement, which impacts quorum, as Advisory Group members will not be required to sit on an all-day virtual meeting in silence.

5. Retire Committee Independent Reviews Requirement



Supportive Comments

1

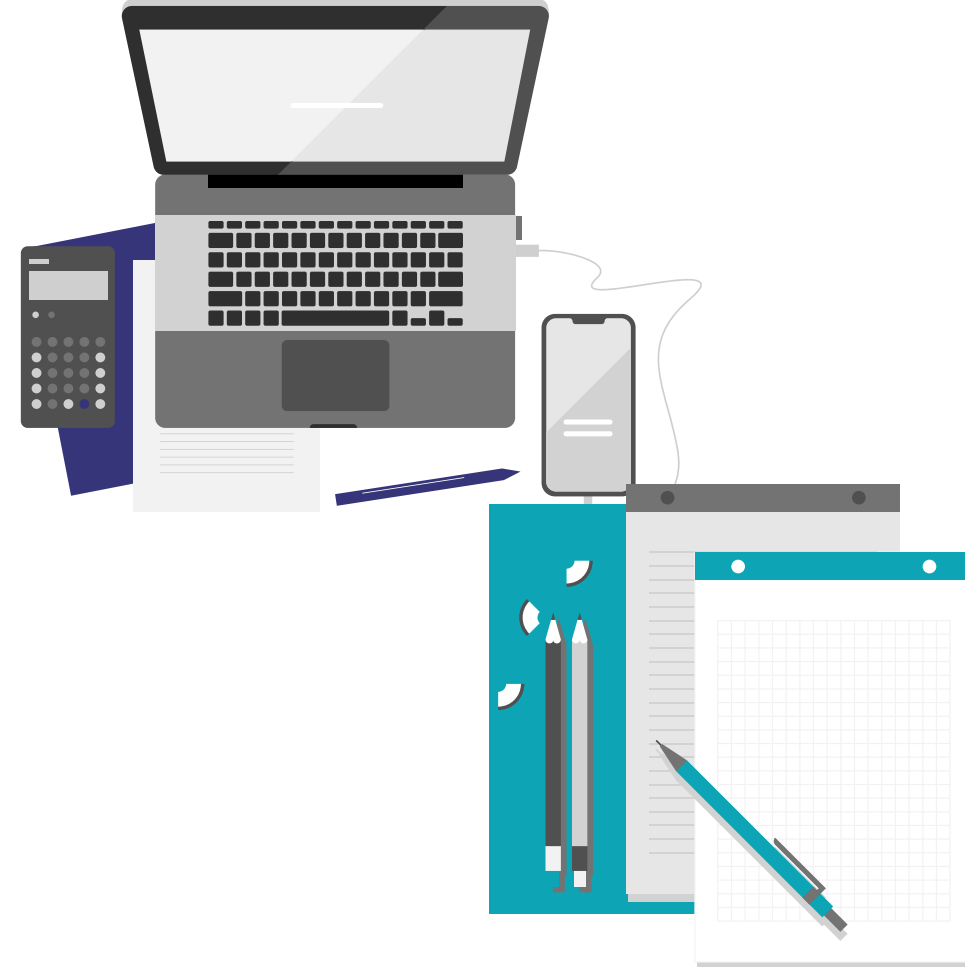
Non-Supportive

- Committee independent ratings provide a good pulse of committee concerns, which helps developers/stewards prepare for the measure discussions.
- Requiring ratings is an additional incentive to reviewing the measure(s).

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5. Retire Committee Independent Reviews Requirement, *Continued 1*

- We will continue to require the submission of measure ratings (i.e., assigning a rating of “Met,” “Not Met, but Addressable,” “Not Met”), but **only for the Recommendation Group members**.
- We will also consider adding an option for committee members to choose if they are unsure how to rate a certain domain of the measure.
- We will create educational materials to improve the content within measure submissions and reviewer rationales.
- Committees will continue to use the [PQM Measure Evaluation Rubric](#) and [Measure Evaluation Worksheet](#) to evaluate measures, review staff preliminary assessments, and consider Advisory Group and public comments prior to voting.



Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 Timeline



	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
	Spring Measure Review Cycle						Fall Measure Review Cycle					
Intent to Submit	●						●					
Full Measure Submission		●						●				
Staff Assessments			■						■			
Measure Posted for 30-day Public Comment			■						■			
Listening Sessions			■						■			
Advisory Group Meetings			■						■			
Developer Responses			■						■			
Recommendations Group Independent Review				■						■		
Endorsement Meetings					■						■	
Endorsement Meeting Summaries Drafted and Posted						■					■	
Appeals Period							■					■
Appeals Committee Meeting (as needed) and Final Decisions Posted								●				●

2024 Advisory and Recommendation Groups



Advisory (Delphi) Group

- **Reviews measures and provides feedback and questions** regarding the measures under review during Advisory Group meetings 1-2 months prior to the Recommendation Group endorsement meeting.
- These inputs ensure a larger number of voices contribute to the consensus-building process.

Recommendation (Nominal) Group

- **Reviews and provides ratings and written comments on measures** prior to the Recommendation Group endorsement meeting.
- **Reviews the Advisory Group's feedback and questions, public comments, and respective developer/steward responses** pertaining the measures under review prior to the endorsement meeting.
- **Renders an endorsement decision via a vote** during the endorsement meeting.

Next Steps for Spring 2024



Full Measure Submission

- Submit by 11:59 pm ET on May 1, 2024.
- [Full Measure Submission Form Template](#) (Version 2.0 | 2024)



Upcoming Public Comment

- **Spring 2024 Measures:** May 16 – June 14, 2024.
- **Public Comment Listening Sessions:** May 28-30, 2024.
- **Draft E&M Guidebook:** May 2024.



E&M Committee Meetings

- **Advisory Group Meetings:** June 3-6, 2024.
- **Endorsement Meetings:** July 26-August 1, 2024.

Questions



Thank You!

Have questions? Contact us at
PQMsupport@battelle.org





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