

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

Battelle’s objective is to bolster consensus-building and facilitate a more streamlined process for capturing an increased volume of measure review input. In light of that, we remain dedicated to identifying and exploring novel opportunities for augmenting efficiencies and improvements. We extend our gratitude for the active participation and engagement of all interested parties, including E&M committee members, developers, stewards, and the public, during the Fall 2023 cycle. Our commitment is to preserve the diversity of perspectives while pursuing these enhancements.

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

- Concerns with the 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 Measure Review (PRMR) and the E&M processes;
- Committee challenges with submitting measure reviews, which impacted the number of independent reviews received; and
- A need for additional opportunities for developers/stewards to respond to comments prior to the endorsement meeting.

In response to the feedback, we are implementing several enhancements to the E&M committee roles, voting, and meeting structure. The enhancements maintain a 6-month timeline (Figure 1) and high standards for transparency and rigor. From March 1-22, 2024, we hosted a public comment period to collect feedback on the enhancements. All comments received are available on the [Partnership for Quality Measurement \(PQM\) website](#).

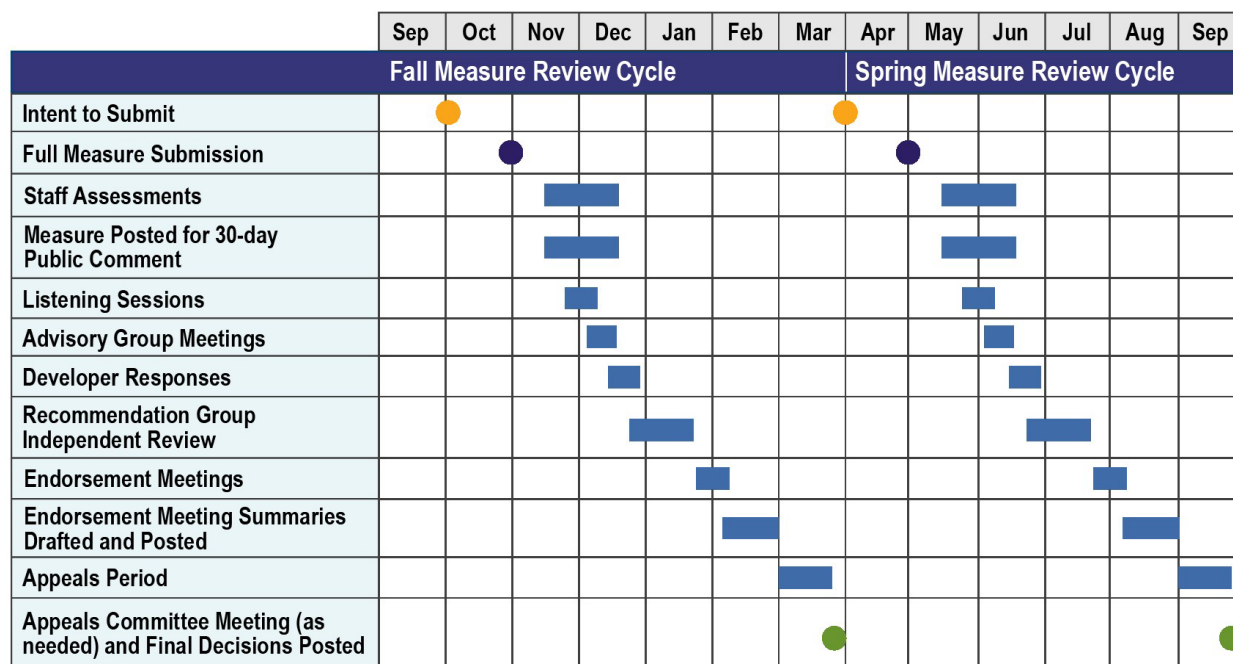


Figure 1. E&M Timeline with Proposed Enhancements

E&M Process Enhancements

Taking effect in the Spring 2024 E&M cycle, the changes discussed below, and outlined in Figure 2, 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 PRMR.

The enhancements to be implemented for the Spring 2024 cycle include:

1. **Conducting Advisory Group Meetings:** To improve the ability of the Advisory Group members to raise questions and share perspectives verbally regarding the measures under endorsement review, Battelle will convene the Advisory Group members for each committee 1-2 months prior to the endorsement meetings. No voting will occur during these virtual meetings; Advisory Group members will be asked to review the measures assigned to their respective committee and ask questions and comment on strengths and limitations of the measures. Recommendation Group members and measure developers/stewards are invited and encouraged to attend these Advisory Group meetings to listen to the discussion. In addition, developers/stewards will have the opportunity to respond to Advisory Group questions during the meeting. Battelle will share a comment summary document with developers/stewards after the meetings; measure developers/stewards will be provided the opportunity to respond to the comments and questions posed by the Advisory Group members. Battelle will then share the summary document along with developer/steward responses with the

respective Recommendation Group for consideration in advance of the E&M endorsement meetings.

- 2. Hosting Public Comment Listening Sessions:** To further improve endorsement meeting efficiency, Battelle will host a series of Public Comment Listening Sessions prior to the close of the measure public comment period for that E&M cycle. These listening sessions are in addition to the opportunity to provide written public comment and will be used to further capture additional public comment for E&M committee consideration. Any interested party will have the opportunity to register for the session through the PQM website to give a brief verbal statement on one or more measures. Comments received during the public comment period and the listening sessions are compiled and made publicly available on the PQM website prior to the E&M endorsement meetings. E&M committee members and measure developers/stewards are invited and encouraged to attend. After the listening sessions, Battelle will draft a summary document, which will be shared with developers/stewards. They will be given the opportunity to respond to the comments, which will be shared with the respective E&M committee for review and consideration in advance of the endorsement meetings.
- 3. Increasing Recommendation Group Size:** To accommodate the diversity of voices needed for the endorsement meeting discussions, the Recommendation Group will increase its size to 20-25 individuals. Battelle will recruit members from the respective Advisory Group to serve on the Recommendation Group for Spring 2024 cycle, while maintaining the diversity of voices and perspectives as outlined in Table 4 of the [E&M Guidebook](#).
- 4. Changing Voting:** Due to implementing separate Advisory Group meetings as noted above, the Recommendation Group will be the only group voting during the endorsement meetings. This further aligns with the PRMR process and mitigates the potential burden associated with attendance and lack of quorum, which results in having to collect votes offline.
- 5. Retiring Committee Independent Ratings Requirement for Advisory Group Members:** Committee independent ratings are a useful finding and help to guide the measure discussion during the endorsement meeting. To align with the changes noted above, we will continue to require the submission of measure ratings but only for the Recommendation Group members. This is due to the timing of the Advisory Group meetings in relation to when the measures are available for review and the time needed to compile the Advisory Group feedback and developer responses prior to the endorsement meeting. However, Advisory Group members will still be required to review submitted measures against the PQM Measure Evaluation Rubric prior to their respective Advisory Group meeting.

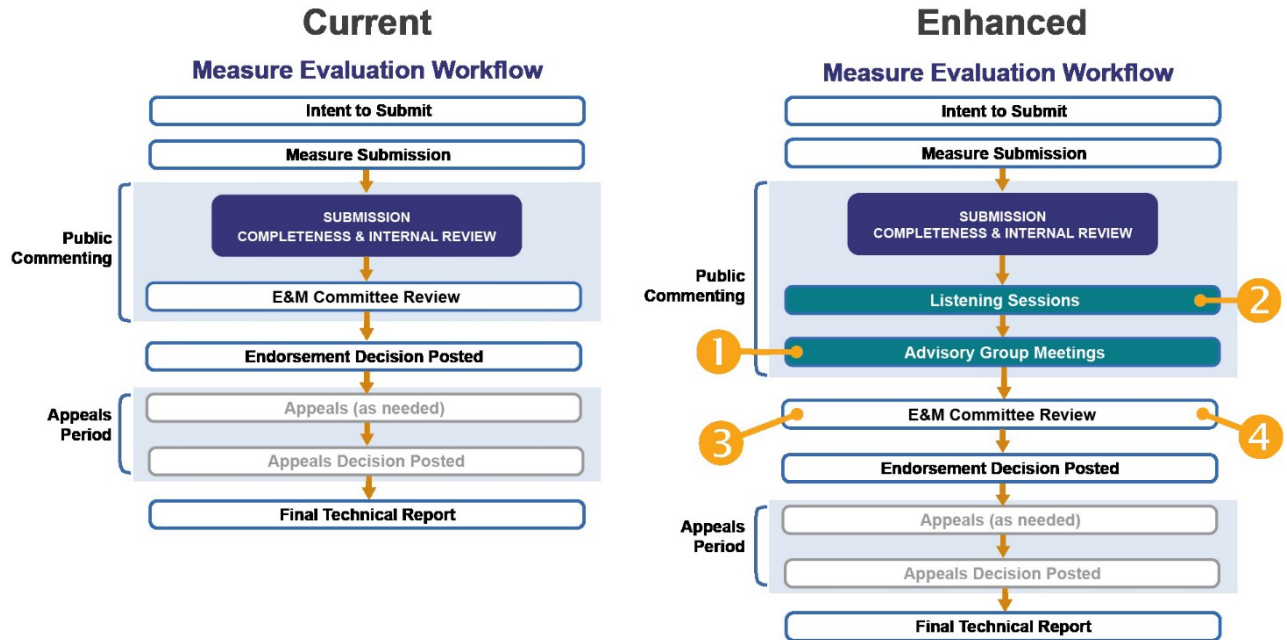


Figure 2. Current and Enhanced E&M Process