

# National Quality Forum: Who We Are

The National Quality Forum leads national collaboration to improve health and healthcare quality through measurement.

- A non-profit, nonpartisan, membership-based, multi-stakeholder organization
- Sets the gold standard for quality measures through endorsement process
- Provides an essential forum to the quality community – 430+ organizational members and 800+ volunteer leaders
- Was founded in 1999 as a 501(c)(3) membership organization

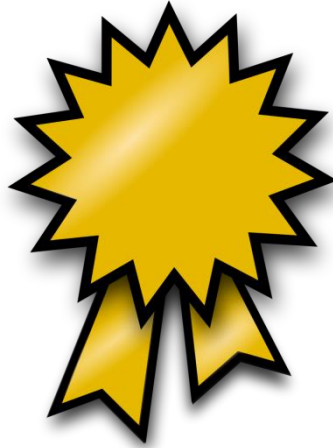


# National Quality Forum

NQF convenes multistakeholder groups to:

- **Endorse measures**, using the Consensus Development Process (CDP)
- Provide guidance about how to **improve measurement**
- Provide guidance about which **measures to use**, using the Measure Applications Partnership (MAP)
- Provide recommendations about how to address **measure gaps**
- Demonstrate opportunity for **implementing change** collectively across healthcare, using the National Quality Partners (NQP)

# NQF Endorsement: The Gold Standard



## NQF Endorsed

- Measures are evaluated through the Consensus Development Process (CDP), which is continuously updated
- Measures must meet stringent criteria
- Endorsement is the “gold standard” for measures
- 600+ measures currently endorsed – available in our [online database of endorsed measures](#)
- The CDP relies on multi-stakeholder input at every step
- NQF has been endorsing measures since 2001

# NQF Endorsement

- Fully developed and tested measures may be submitted to NQF for endorsement
  - *NQF sends out a “Call for Measures” (based on specific topic areas: e.g., Cardiology, Infectious Disease, Renal Care, etc.)*
  - *Measures are reviewed by Standing Committees of SMEs convened by NQF for the specific topic area*
  - *Standing Committees evaluate each submitted measure against a standard set of criteria*

# NQF Measure Evaluation Criteria

## 1. Importance to measure and report

- What is the level of evidence for the measures?
- Is there an opportunity for improvement?

## 2. Scientific acceptability of the measurement properties

- What is the reliability and validity of the measure?

## 3. Usability and Use

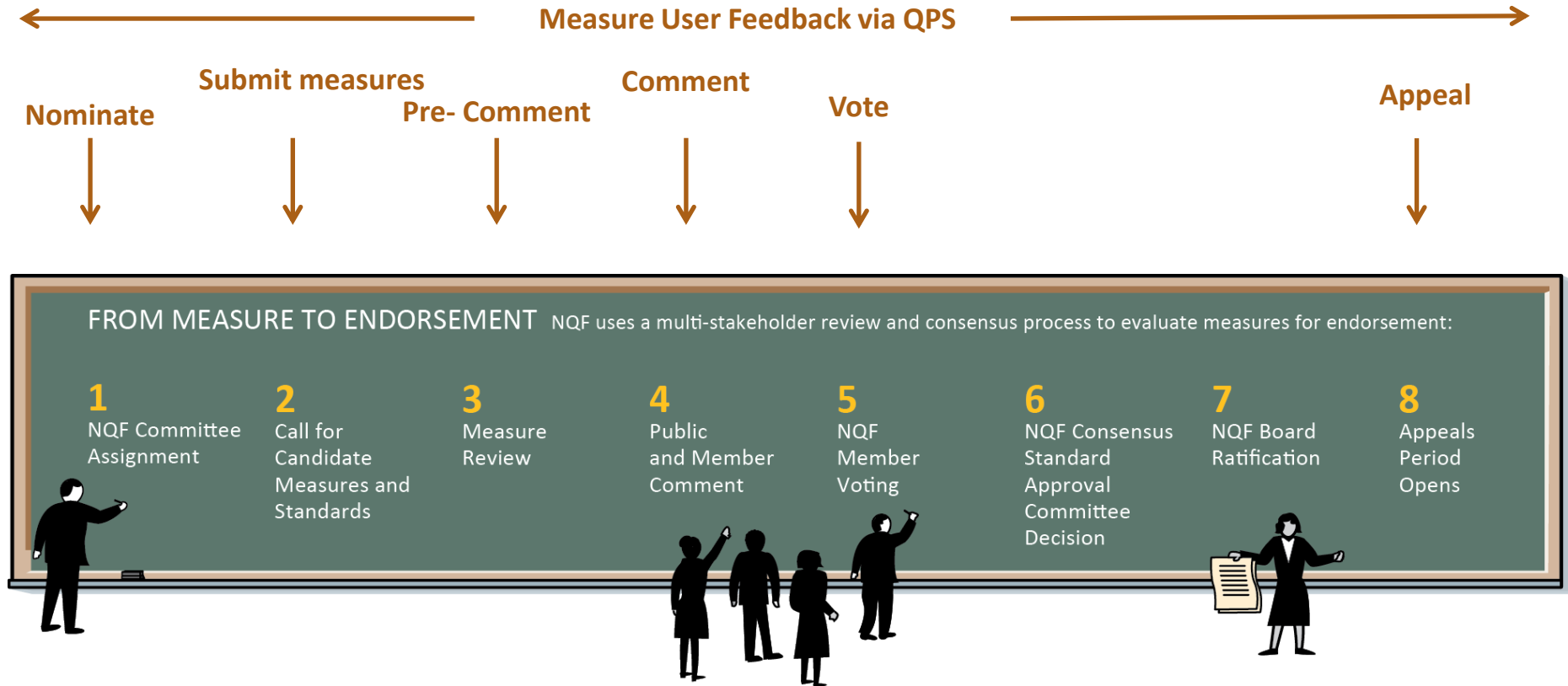
- Can potential audiences use performance results for both accountability and performance improvement?
- New criterion related to end-user input

## 4. Feasibility

- Can the measure be implemented without undue burden, capture with electronic data/EHRs?

## 5. Assess related and competing measures

# The Consensus Development Process (Before Redesign)



# CDP Improvement

- NQF hosted a **Kaizen** event in May 2017
  - *Included more than 40 stakeholders from the public and private sectors*
- Goals:
  - *Facilitate more timely evaluation of measures*
  - *Increase opportunities for submission and review of measures*
  - *Reduce cycle time of the CDP*
  - *Improve flow of information between CDP and MAP processes*

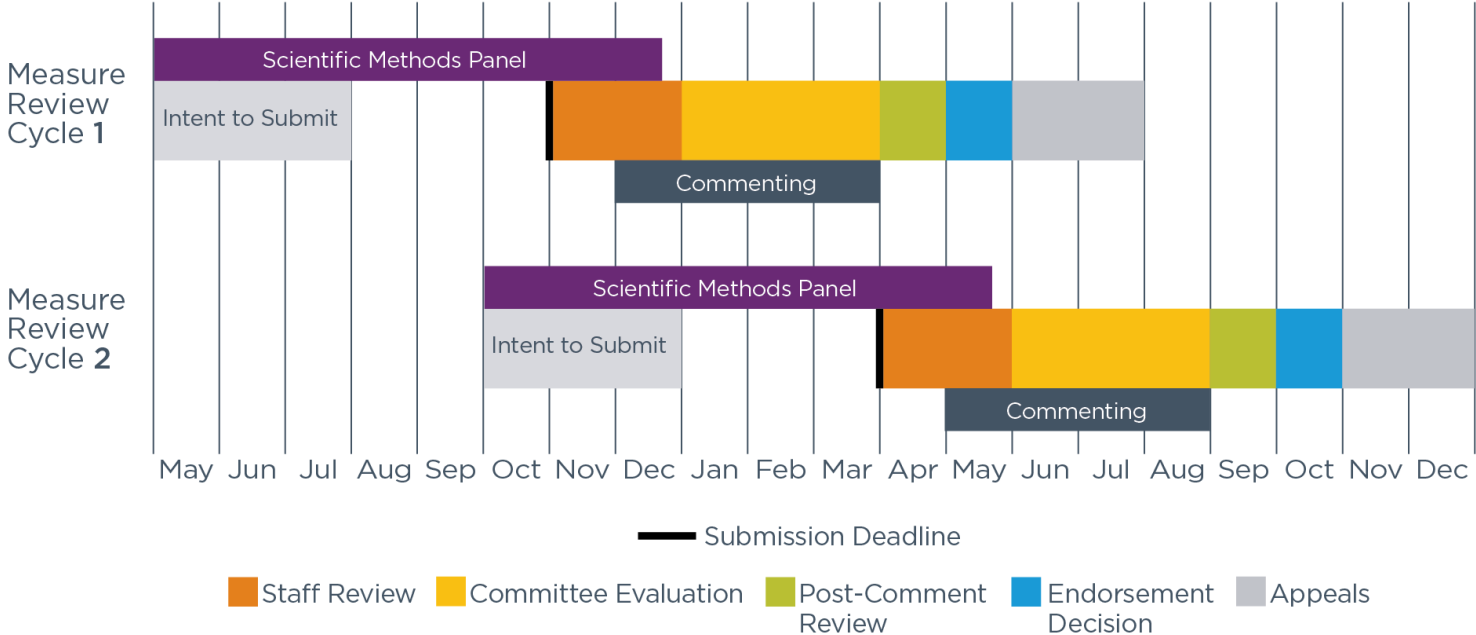
# CDP Improvement

- The Kaizen event resulted in significant changes and improvements to the CDP
  - *More regular, predictable cycles of measure evaluation*
    - » Increased opportunities to submit measures for review
  - *New Scientific Methods Panel*
  - *Revised process for continuous public comment and member input*
  - *Revisions to content and structure of technical reports*
  - *Change in role of CSAC & Board*
  - *Designation of Standing Committee as final endorsement body*

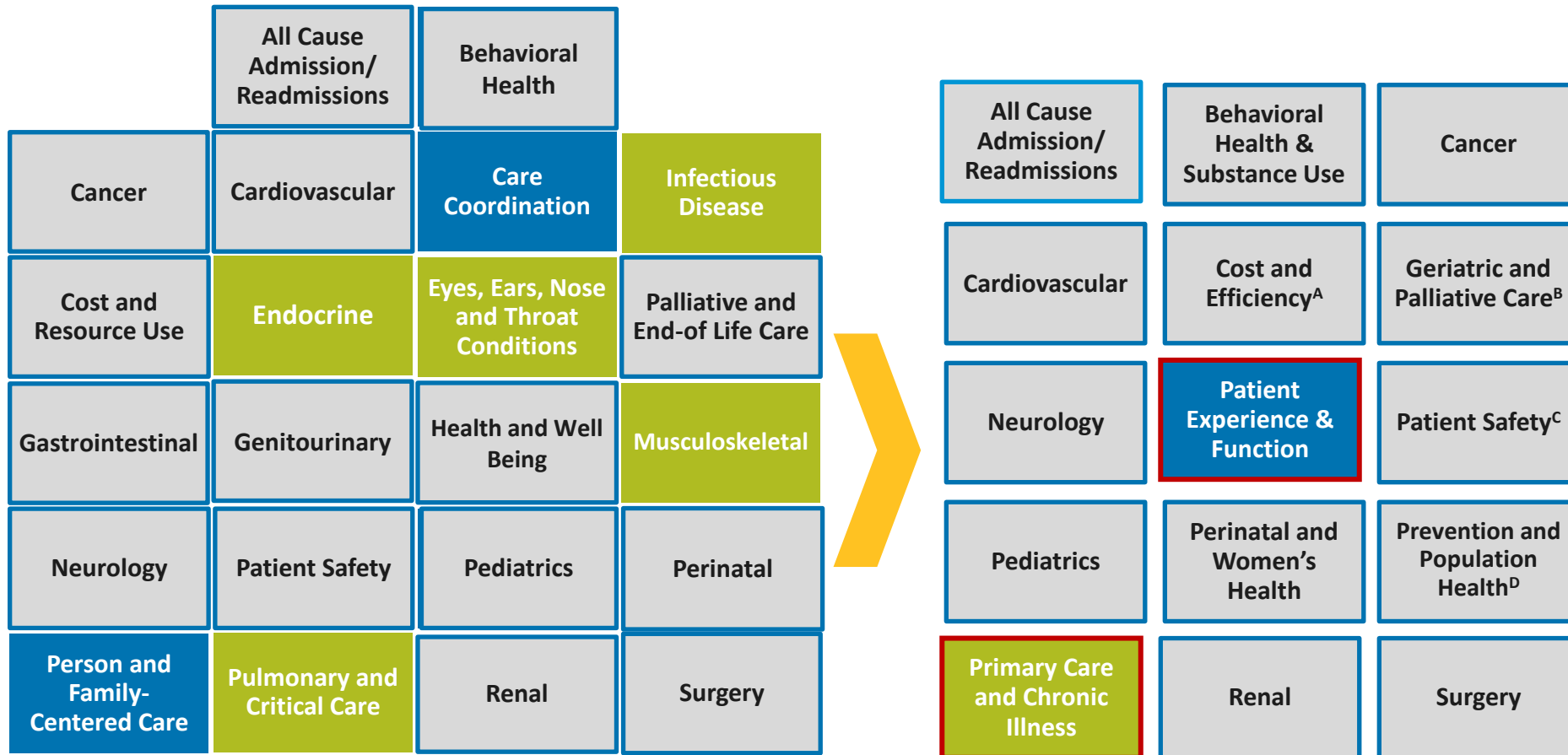


# Measure Review: Two Cycles Per Year

Consensus Development Process:  
Two Cycles Every Contract Year



# 15 New Measure Review Topical Areas



□ Denotes expanded topic area

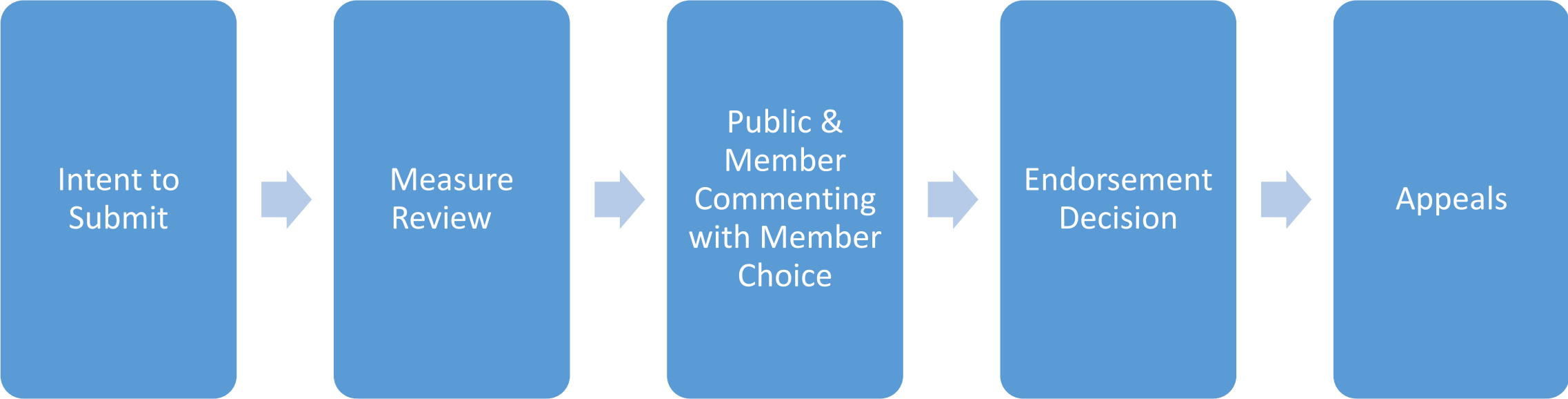
<sup>A</sup> Cost & Efficiency will include efficiency-focused measures from other domains

<sup>B</sup> Geriatric & Palliative Care includes pain-focused measures from other domains

<sup>C</sup> Patient Safety will include acute infectious disease and critical care measures

<sup>D</sup> Prevention and Population Health is formerly Health and Well Being

# Revised CDP Process



# NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP)

## Measure Review



### *NEW Scientific Methods Panel*

- Evaluate Scientific Acceptability of Complex Measures
- Serve in Advisory Capacity to NQF



### *Methods Review by Staff*

- NQF will continue to provide preliminary analysis, review for non-complex measures



### *Examples of 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

# NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP)

## Public and Member Commenting Period with Member Choice

- ❑ *Extended opportunity for public and NQF member commenting*
- ❑ *16 week commenting period*
  - *Comments can be submitted at any time throughout this period*
- ❑ **NEW!! Member Benefit**
  - *NQF members can express their support or lack of support for each measure.*
  - *Replaces previous NQF Member Voting Period*



# NQF Consensus Development Process (CDP)

## Measure Endorsement

### □ *Consensus Standards Approval Committee (CSAC)*

- *NQF Board-Approved Advisory Committee*
  - *Provide guidance to NQF leadership regarding enhancements to the CDP*
  - *Maintain Measure Evaluation Criteria*
  - *Render Final Endorsement Decision*



# Enhanced Training and Education

☐ *Recognized Need for Increased Training and Education*

☐ *Expanded Range of Educational Resources*

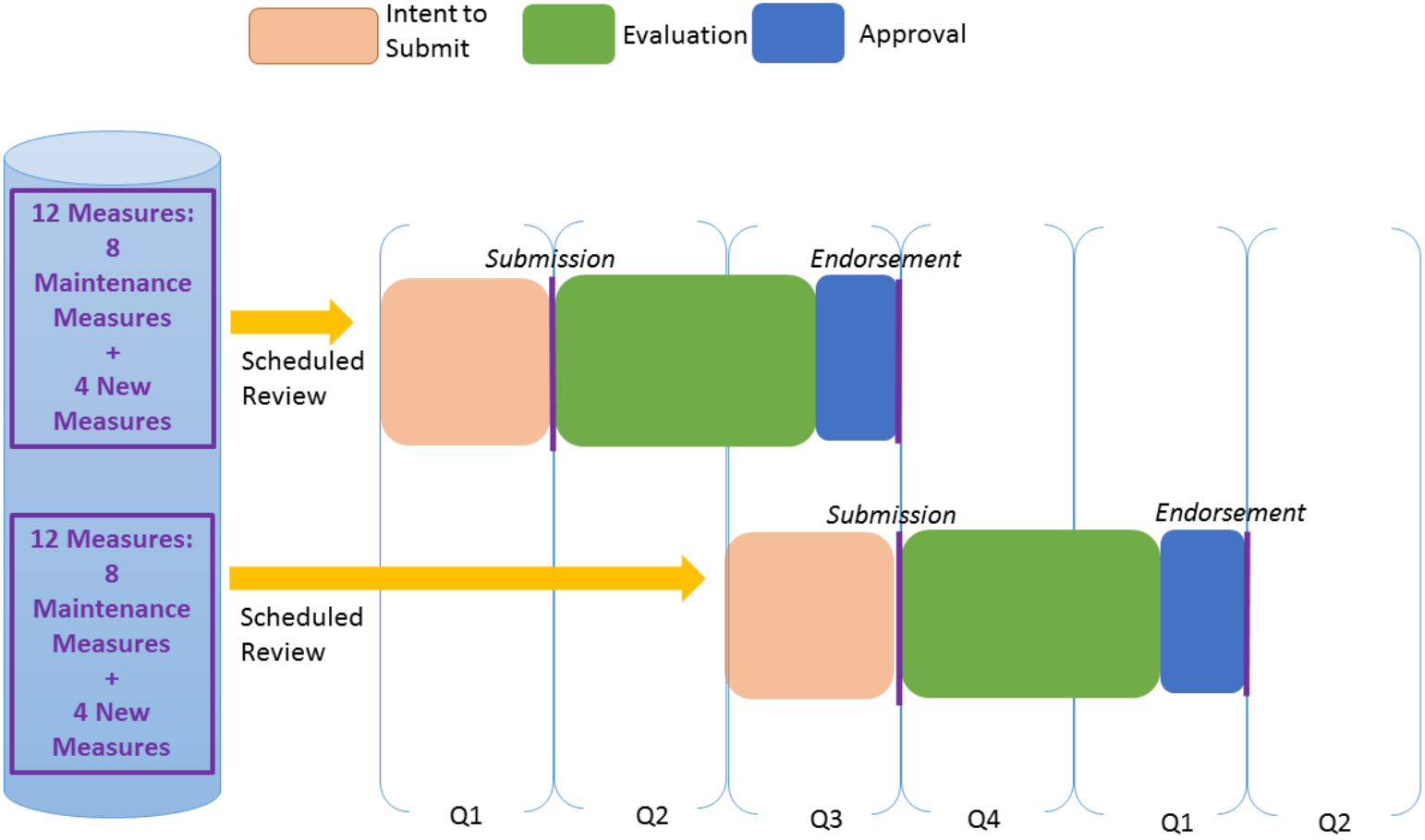
■ *New Resource Library*

- Virtual On-Demand Trainings
- Resource Guidebooks
- FAQ Documents

■ *Accessible for All Stakeholders*

- Committee members
- Measure developers
- NQF members and the public
- NQF staff

# Schedule of Measure Review Cycle





# Measure Submission Deadlines

## Group A:

Submission Deadlines:  
**November 1 & April 2**

- Behavioral Health and Substance Use
- Cost and Efficiency
- Neurology
- Patient Safety
- Renal

## Group B:

Submission Deadlines:  
**November 8 & April 9**

- All-Cause Admissions and Readmissions
- Cardiovascular
- Patient Experience and Function
- Prenatal and Women's Health
- Primary Care and Chronic Illness

## Group C:

Submission Deadlines:  
**November 15 & April 16**

- Cancer
- Geriatric and Palliative Care
- **Prevention and Population Health**
- Surgery

# Questions?

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