PUBLIC WEBINAR

2024 Pre-Rulemaking Public Webinar

Melissa Gross, CMS

Jake Webb, Battelle

Julia Mackeprang, HSAG

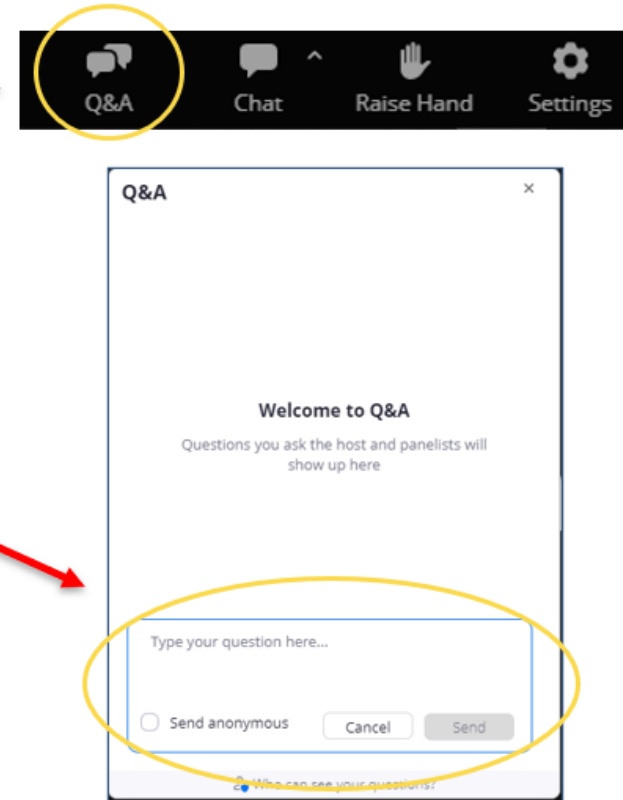Moriah Bauman, Mathematica

Kim Rawlings, CMS

Housekeeping

- All audio lines will be muted during the presentation.

- The meeting is being recorded and will be uploaded to the [Pre-Rulemaking Resources Webpage on the CMS Measures Management System (MMS) Hub](#) for future viewing.

- Questions will be addressed later in the presentation.

Questions

Open the Zoom Q&A function

- Type your **question** into the question box

- Press **send** to submit

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Agenda

- **Pre-Rulemaking Process**
- **CMS Measures Under Consideration Entry/Review Information Tool (MERIT)**
  - Description of features
  - 508 compliant attachments
  - Guidance on completing required fields
  - eCQM requirement clarifications
- **PRMR Review**
- **Pre-Rulemaking Resources**
  - Tour of Pre-Rulemaking webpage
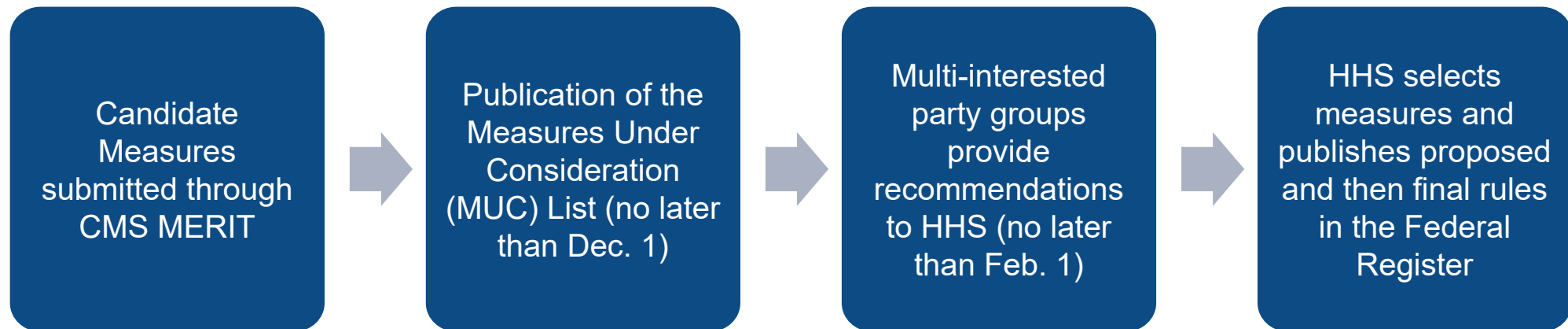- **Questions and Answers**

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Overview of Pre-Rulemaking Process and Timeline

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Pre-Rulemaking Process

Section 3014 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), created section 1890A of the Social Security Act, which required the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish **a federal pre-rulemaking process for the selection of quality and efficiency measures for use by HHS**.

| Candidate Measures submitted through CMS MERIT | → | Publication of the Measures Under Consideration (MUC) List (no later than Dec. 1) | → | Multi-interested party groups provide recommendations to HHS (no later than Feb. 1) | → | HHS selects measures and publishes proposed and then final rules in the Federal Register |

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Pre-Rulemaking Programs

The Pre-Rulemaking process for measure selection is used by the following Medicare programs:
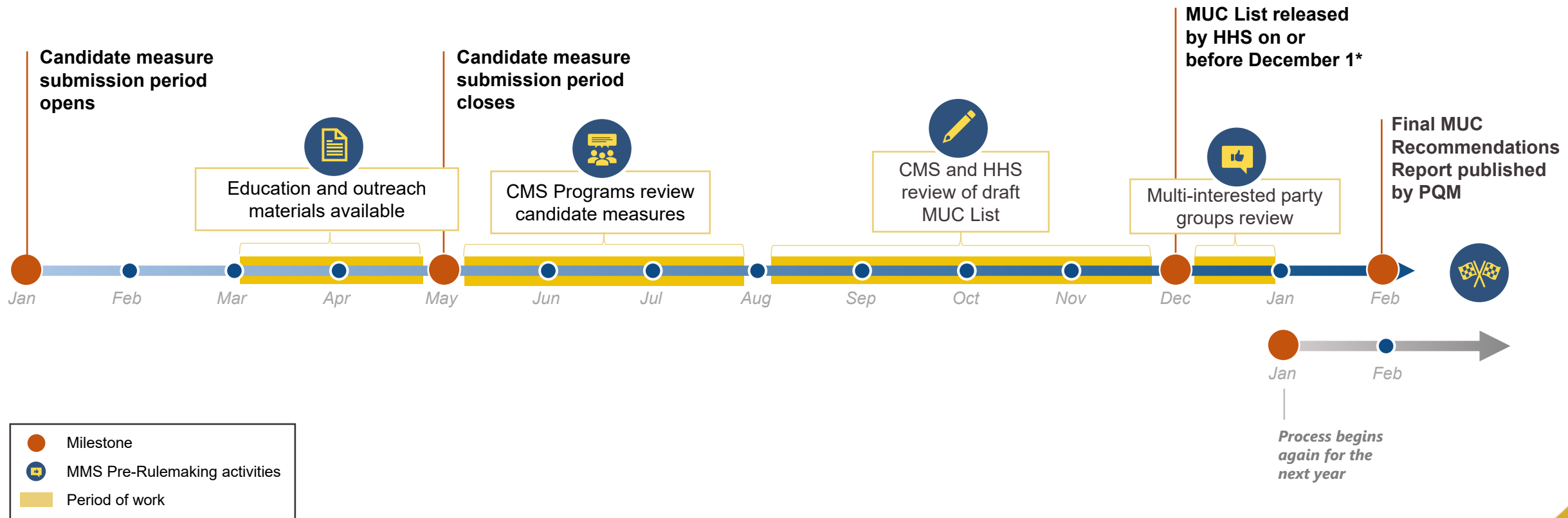
- Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting
- End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive
- Home Health Quality Reporting
- Hospice Quality Reporting
- Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction
- Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting
- Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting
- Hospital Readmissions Reduction
- Hospital Value-Based Purchasing
- Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting

- Inpatient Rehabilitation Facility Quality Reporting
- Long-Term Care Hospital Quality Reporting
- Medicare Promoting Interoperability
- Medicare Shared Savings
- Merit-based Incentive Payment System
- Part C and D Star Ratings
- Prospective Payment System-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting
- Rural Emergency Hospital Quality Reporting
- Skilled Nursing Facility Quality Reporting
- Skilled Nursing Facility Value-Based Purchasing
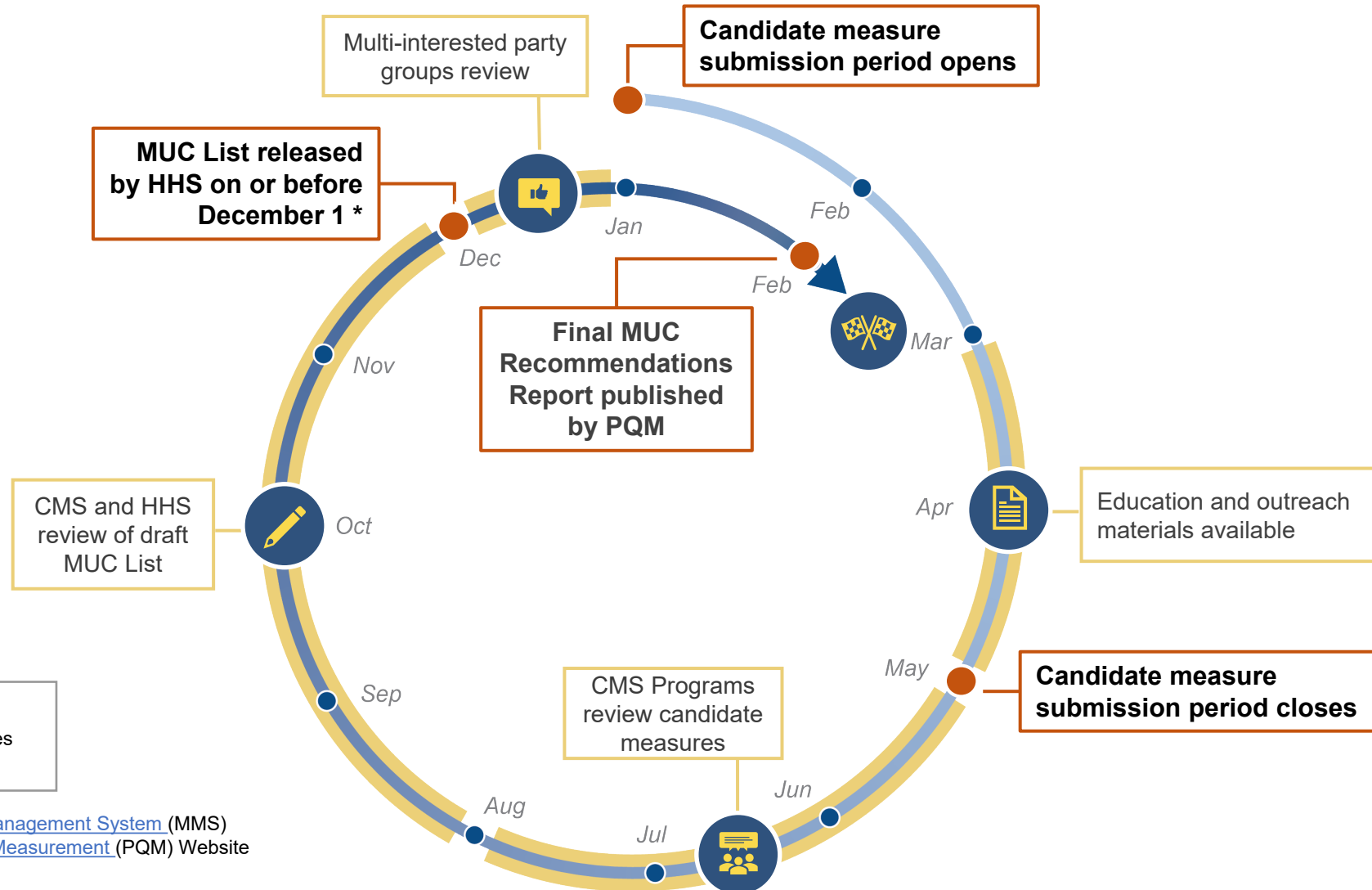
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Pre-Rulemaking Timeline
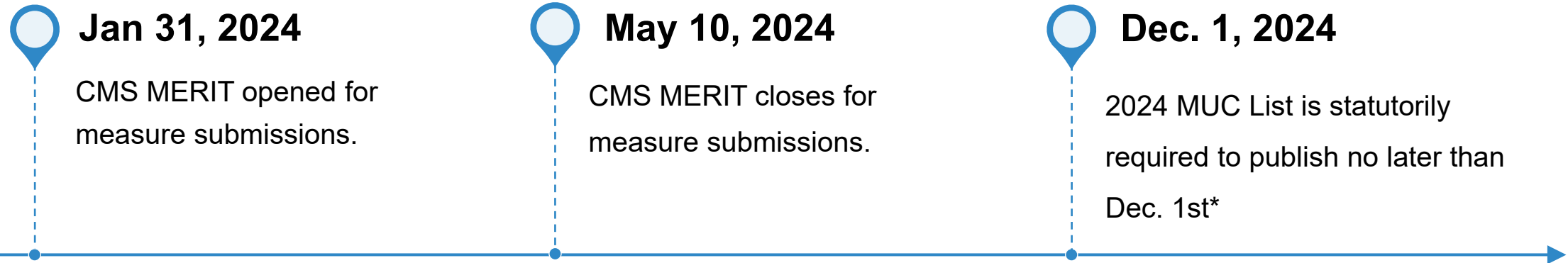
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Linear Pre-Rulemaking Timeline

Candidate measure submission period opens

Candidate measure submission period closes

MUC List released by HHS on or before December 1*

Final MUC Recommendations Report published by PQM

Education and outreach materials available

CMS Programs review candidate measures

CMS and HHS review of draft MUC List

Multi-interested party groups review

Jan · Feb · Mar · Apr · May · Jun · Jul · Aug · Sep · Oct · Nov · Dec · Jan · Feb

Jan · Feb

Process begins again for the next year

Legend:
- Milestone
- MMS Pre-Rulemaking activities
- Period of work

*Published on the CMS Measures Management System (MMS) Hub and the Partnership for Quality Measurement (PQM) Website

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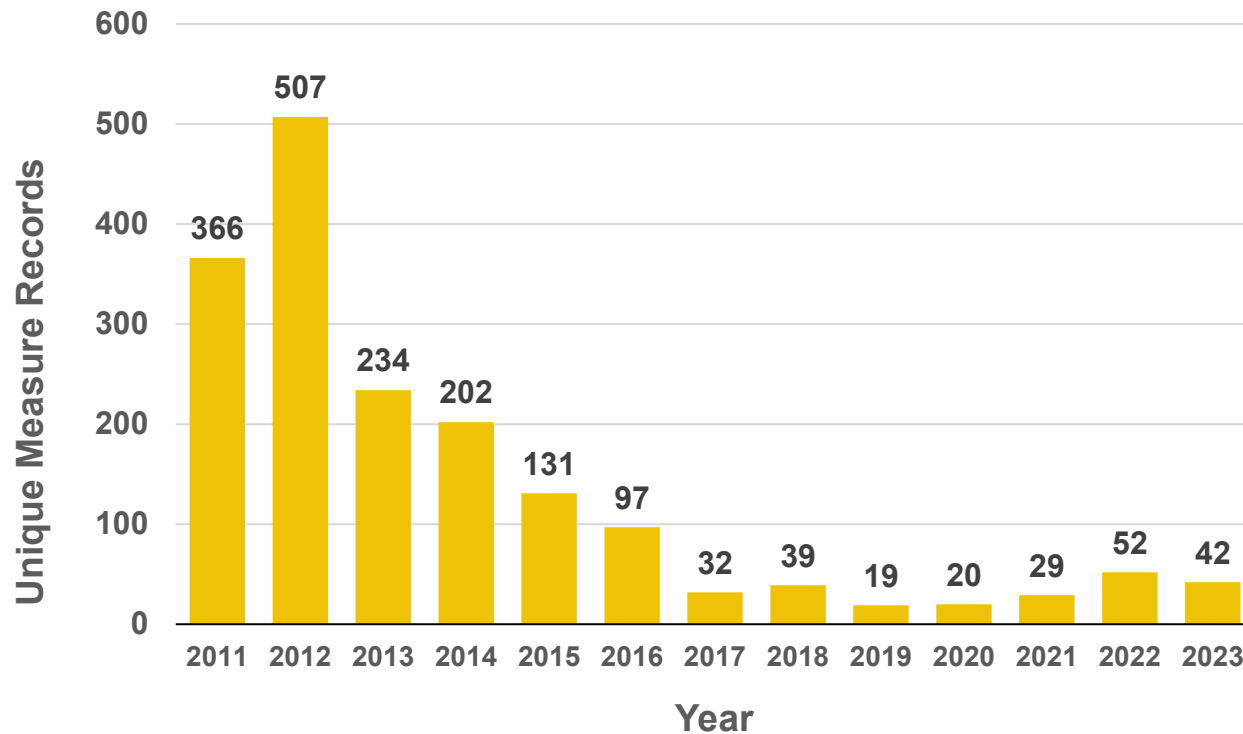# Cyclical Pre-Rulemaking Timeline

Multi-interested party groups review

Candidate measure submission period opens

MUC List released by HHS on or before December 1 *

Final MUC Recommendations Report published by PQM

CMS and HHS review of draft MUC List

Education and outreach materials available

Candidate measure submission period closes

CMS Programs review candidate measures

Jan
Feb
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Dec

Legend:
- Milestone
- MMS Pre-Rulemaking activities
- Period of work

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2024 Measure Submission Important Dates

Jan 31, 2024

CMS MERIT opened for measure submissions.

May 10, 2024

CMS MERIT closes for measure submissions.

Dec. 1, 2024

2024 MUC List is statutorily required to publish no later than Dec. 1st*

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MUC List Historical Trends

Measures Under Consideration by Year

A complete repository of historical MUC Lists and Reports is located at:

[Pre-Rulemaking MUC Lists and Recommendation Reports The Measures Management System (cms.gov)](#)

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Measure Selection Considerations

- Does the submission align with the quality priorities?

- Is the submission a digital measure? Or an outcome measure?

- Is the candidate measure fulfilling a Meaningful Measure priority gap for this program?

- Does the measure improve upon or enhance any existing measures in the public or private sector? If so, could the original measure be removed?

- Is the measure evidence-based?

- What is the measure's stage of development? Is it fully tested?

- Would the measure be burdensome to operationalize?

- Is the measure endorsed by a consensus-based entity (CBE)?

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Measure Submission Considerations

Measures currently used in CMS programs do not need to go on the MUC List again

Exceptions:

- Measures being expanded into other CMS program(s)
- Measures currently used in a program but underwent substantive changes

Measure specifications may change over time. If your measure has substantively changed, you should submit it again for consideration

Examples of substantive changes could include:

- Intent of measure
- Facility/Setting
- Data Source
- Level of Analysis

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CMS Program Needs and Priorities

- **2024 MUC List Program-Specific Measure Needs and Priorities Report is posted to the [Pre-Rulemaking Resources Webpage on the CMS Measures Management System (MMS) Hub](#)**

- **The summary for each program contains the following information:**

    - Program history and structure

    - High priorities for future measure consideration

    - Program-specific measure requirements

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Updates to CMS MERIT

Measure Submissions

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) MUC Entry/Review Information Tool ([CMS MERIT](#)) is the tool for measure developers to submit their clinical quality and efficiency measures for consideration by CMS.

- CMS MERIT is also used for facilitating searches of measures from the current and previous years and structuring the workflow for CMS review of measures submitted to MERIT.

- CMS MERIT opened on January 31st for the 2024 cycle and **will close on May 10, 2024, at 8pm ET.**

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CMS MERIT Features

CMS MERIT offers several features that have improved the submission and review process

Automatic completeness checks
CMS MERIT checks for required measure information

Save submissions and return later
Submitters can save and return later to complete measure information

Review process tracking
Submitters and reviewers can track progress

Easy-to-navigate interface
Incorporates human-centered design principles

Improved Copy and Paste Functionality
Ability to copy and paste from Word doc

Ability to print .pdf of submissions
Ability to print and save a copy of submission(s) in PDF
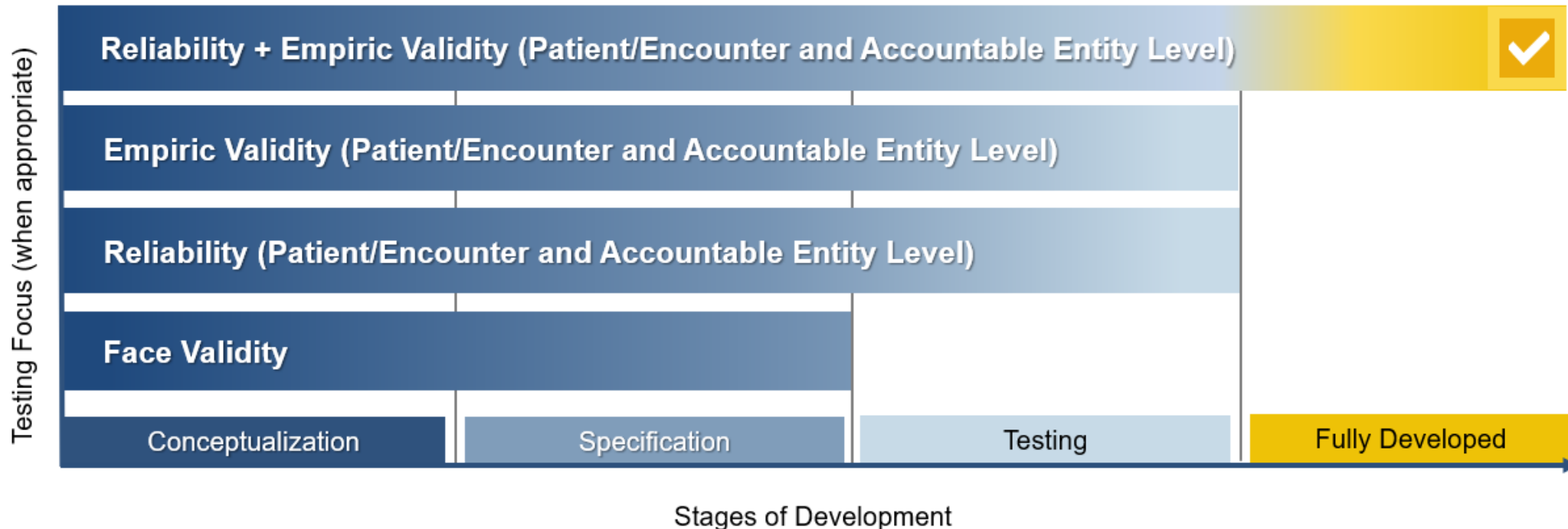
Updates to CMS MERIT for 2024

- CMS MERIT is the tool measure developers use to submit measures for consideration by CMS.

  - In 2024, there are **fewer** required fields to complete.

  - Background questions have been updated to refer to the new Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review (PRMR) process (formerly the Measure Applications Partnership [MAP]).

  - New required question to capture whether patient surveys and tools used in quality measures have been translated and validated in Spanish

  - Revised stage of development question asks submitters to indicate **completed** stages of development

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Updates to CMS MERIT for 2024: 508-Compliant Attachments

- CMS requests attachments to be 508-compliant when submitted to CMS MERIT
  - Attachments are made public to improve transparency
  - Being 508-compliant allows for more meaningful feedback

- **Resources:**
  - **Section 508.gov:** https://www.section508.gov/
  - **CMS Creating Accessible Products:** https://www.cms.gov/data-research/cms-information-technology/section-508/public/creating-accessible-products
  - **HHS Accessibility & Section 508 Policy:** https://www.hhs.gov/web/section-508/accessibility-checklists/index.html

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Stage of Development

CMS prefers measures that have been fully conceptualized, specified, and tested, but will evaluate measures at all stages.

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Required Data Fields

Key Goals for 2024 Updates:

- Support CMS in addressing the U.S. Government Accountability Office recommendations[1] relative to systematic measure assessment aligned with CMS quality objectives

- Align with CBE criteria[2] and MMS Blueprint Content[3] where feasible

- Reduce measure developer burden and improve flow

- Streamline the collection of measure data

[1] US Government Accountability Office. Health Care Quality: CMS Could More Effectively Ensure Its Quality Measurement Activities Promote Its Objectives. Washington, DC: US Government Accountability Office; 2019. https://www.gao.gov/assets/710/701512.pdf
[2] CBE criteria include pre-rulemaking review (PRMR) and endorsement and maintenance (E&M). https://p4qm.org
[3] https://mmshub.cms.gov/blueprint-measure-lifecycle-overview

Required Data Fields

Refinements for 2024:

Key Refinements Made to Data Fields:

- Reduced number of MERIT data fields by 30

- Enhanced guidance to clarify submission requirements

- Updated to capture all completed stages of measure development

- Updated various data fields (e.g., *Meaningful to Patients, Input from Measured Entities*, and *Measure Data Sources)*

- Streamlined *Evidence* section

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Required Data Fields: Example

- Click "View Definition" to access additional guidance clarifying submission requirements

Required Data Fields: Example

Meaningful to Patients field updated to capture majority agreement

Meaningful to Patients. Did the majority of patients/caregivers consulted agree that the measure is meaningful and/or produces information that is valuable to them in making their care decisions? * View Definition	☑ Yes	☐ No	☐ Not evaluated
Description of input collected from patients/caregivers consulted * View Definition			
Description of input collected from measured entities (Optional) View Definition			

Required Data Fields: Example

Reduced to two data fields for most types of evidence (one free text field and one discrete field)

Type of evidence to support the measure *	☐ Select / Unselect All		
View Definition	☐ Clinical Guidelines or USPSTF (U.S. Preventive Services Task Force) Guidelines	☑ Peer-Reviewed Systematic Review	☐ Peer-Reviewed Original Research
	☐ Empirical data	☐ Grey Literature	
Briefly summarize the peer-reviewed systematic review(s) that inform this measure concept * View Definition			
Peer-reviewed systematic review citation * View Definition	☐ Citation (enter here):	☐ URL (enter here):	☐ DOI (enter here):
	☐ Not available		

eCQM Readiness

eCQM Readiness, Step 1: Specification

- **Measure Authoring Tool (MAT) output** to include Health Quality Measure Format (HQMF) human readable files
- **Bonnie test cases** achieving 100% passing and 100% coverage
- **Value sets** published in the Value Set Authority Center (VSAC)
- (optional) eCQM Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources **(FHIR) specification** MAT or Measure Authoring Development Integrated Environment (MADiE) output and test cases

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eCQM Readiness, Step 2: Testing

- Reliability and validity testing that meets the definition of a <u>fully developed measure</u>

- <u>Feasibility testing</u> documented on the **feasibility scorecard**

eCQM Readiness, Step 3: Steward Expectations

- A measure steward is expected to:
  - Understand and apply eCQM standards, including Quality Data Model (QDM), Clinical Quality Language (CQL), and FHIR
  - Make and test technical changes using eCQM tools, including the MAT, Bonnie, MADiE, and VSAC
  - Participate in the eCQM Annual Update process, which is distinct from update cycles for other collection types and may begin at different time than other collection types
  - Adhere to the timelines and processes set forth for the eCQM Annual Update for both QDM-based and FHIR-based specifications
  - Support response to interested party's questions on the measure throughout the year

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eCQM Readiness: Notes and Resources

- MAT and Bonnie will no longer be accessible after June 28, 2024. Measure stewards need to migrate all eCQMs, libraries, and test cases to MADiE prior to this date.

- As part of CMS's transition to digital quality measures, CMS is transitioning to using HL7 FHIR Data Model and FHIR Reporting Requirements for representing and reporting eCQM data. Measure stewards will need to support maintenance of both QDM- and FHIR-based eCQMs during this transition.

- Resources:
  - eCQI Resource Center: https://ecqi.healthit.gov/
  - MAT: https://www.emeasuretool.cms.gov/
  - Bonnie: https://bonnie.healthit.gov/
  - MADiE: https://www.emeasuretool.cms.gov/madie-mvp
  - Value Set Authority Center: https://vsac.nlm.nih.gov/
  - CMS Measures Management System: https://mmshub.cms.gov/

CMS MERIT Support

Quick Start Guide and **2024 MERIT Data Template** are available for download on log in [page](#)

CMS MERIT Tips & Tricks Session
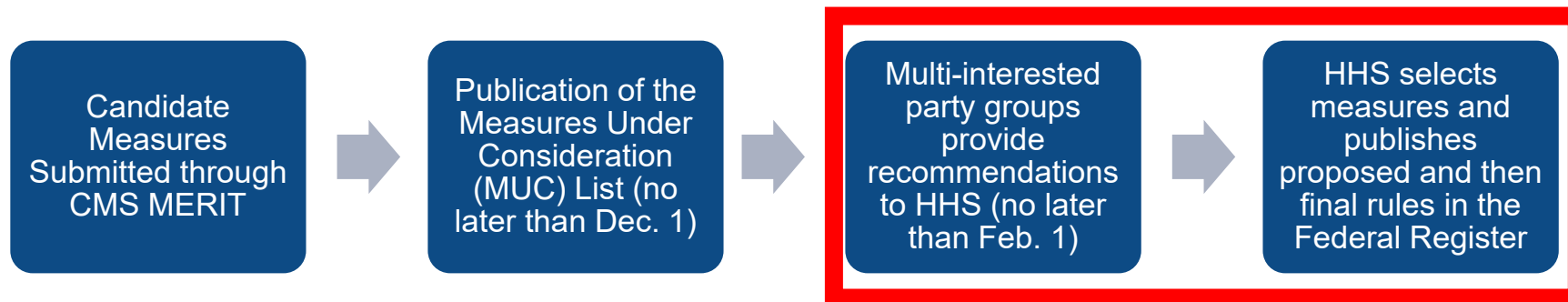**April 16**
12:00 PM Eastern

Contact MMSsupport@battelle.org
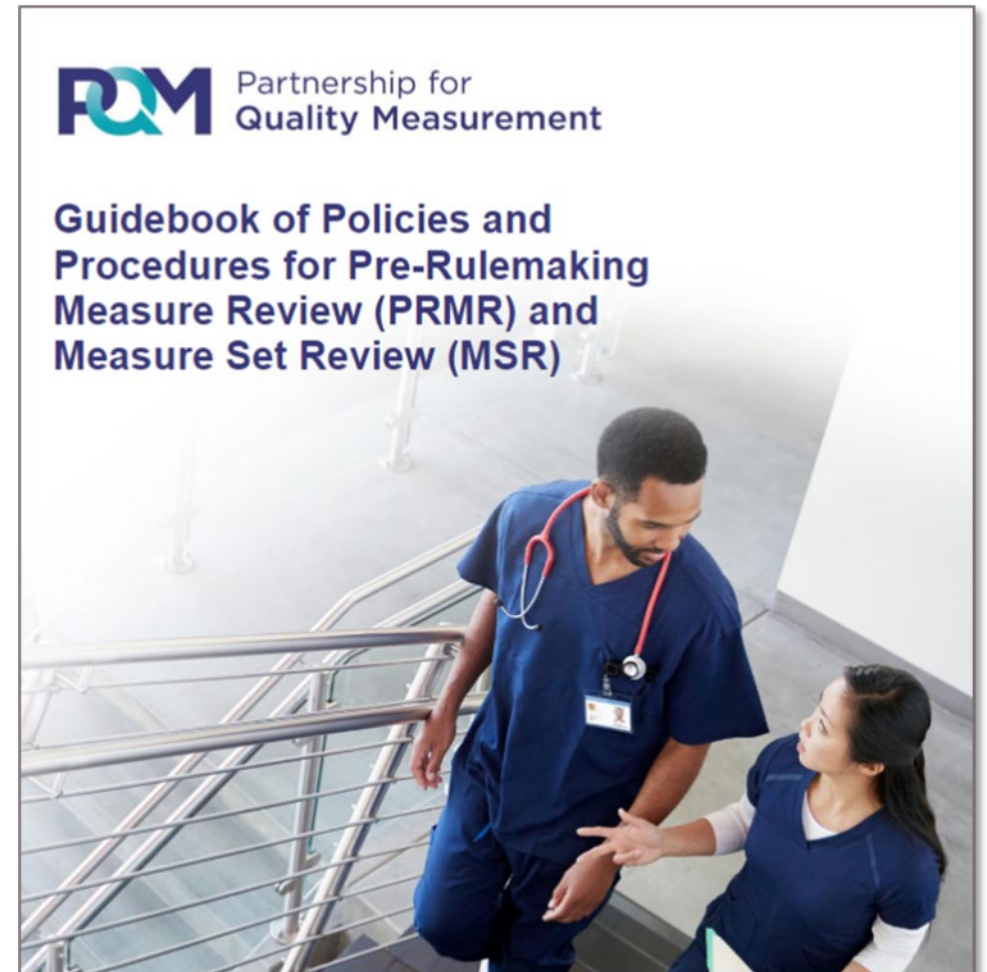with CMS MERIT questions

Pre-Rulemaking Process: PRMR

Section 3014 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), created section 1890A of the Social Security Act, which required the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish **a federal pre-rulemaking process for the selection of quality and efficiency measures for use by HHS**.

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PRMR and MSR Guidebook

- The guidebook serves as a resource to all parties who are interested in these processes and includes details on the following:
  - PRMR and MSR activities, processes, and their associated timelines
  - Summary of committee compositions
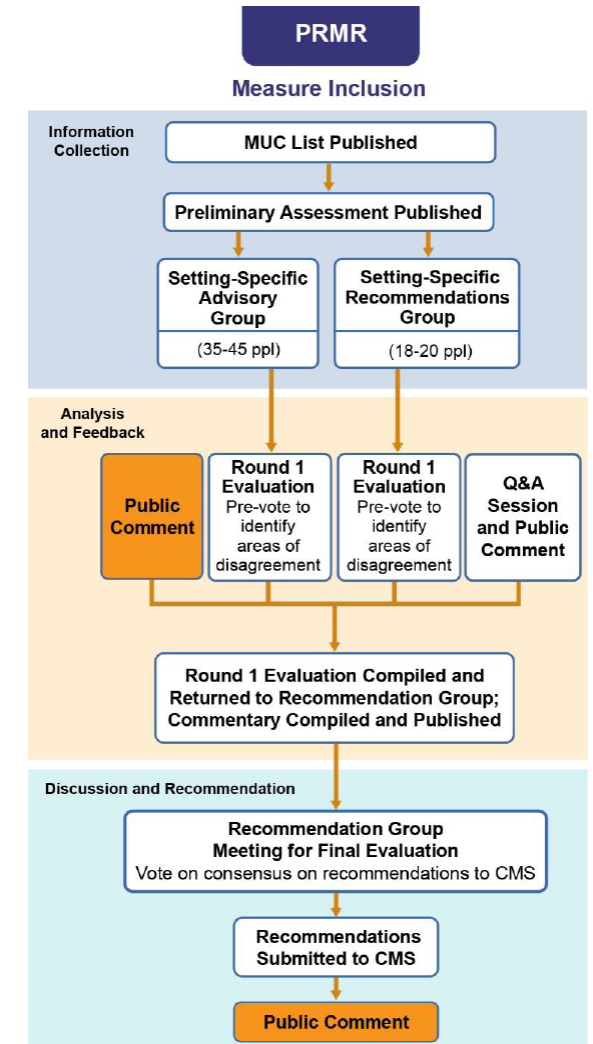 - Measure selection and removal criteria

PQM | Partnership for Quality Measurement

Guidebook of Policies and Procedures for Pre-Rulemaking Measure Review (PRMR) and Measure Set Review (MSR)

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PRMR Process

The PRMR process builds consensus regarding MUC List measures as to whether they are appropriate for consideration for CMS quality reporting programs and value-based programs

Three major phases:

1. Information collection

2. Analysis and feedback

3. Discussion and recommendation

PRMR

Measure Inclusion

Information Collection

MUC List Published

Preliminary Assessment Published

Setting-Specific Advisory Group (35-45 ppl)

Setting-Specific Recommendations Group (18-20 ppl)

Analysis and Feedback

Public Comment

Round 1 Evaluation Pre-vote to identify areas of disagreement

Round 1 Evaluation Pre-vote to identify areas of disagreement

Q&A Session and Public Comment

Round 1 Evaluation Compiled and Returned to Recommendation Group; Commentary Compiled and Published

Discussion and Recommendation

Recommendation Group Meeting for Final Evaluation Vote on consensus on recommendations to CMS

Recommendations Submitted to CMS

Public Comment

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Measure Developer's Role in PRMR

- ## Meetings

    - **Preliminary Analyses: Mid-November**

    - **Listening Sessions: Mid-December**

    - **Recommendation Meetings: Mid-/Late-January**

- ## Non-Meeting Opportunities

    - **Additional Information: August / September**

    - **Review Preliminary Analyses: Mid-November**

Pre-Rulemaking Resources

Tour of Pre-Rulemaking Webpage

[Pre-Rulemaking | The Measures Management System (cms.gov)](#)
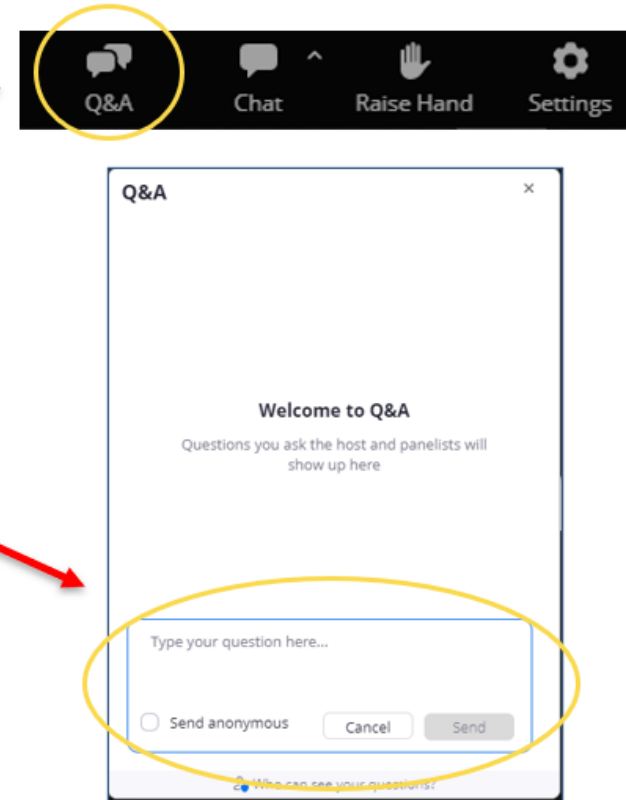
Poll

We want your feedback!
Please complete the poll to let us know how we're doing.

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Questions

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