



## **Getting Ahead of the Curve:** Strategic Planning for the TMF SM V1 Implementation

**Presented by:**

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Kathleen Mellet, Associate Consultant, Just in Time GCP



# Meet the Speakers

Steph Viscomi

**Title:** Director, Clinical Documentation and TMF

**Organization:** Apellis Pharmaceuticals

Steph is a TMF expert who has spent a greater part of her career developing and implementing TMF departments, improving organizational TMF culture, building CRO partnerships and striving for inspection readiness. She has held roles within both the CRO and sponsor settings providing her a broad knowledge base to apply to the evolving TMF industry. She also is a member of the TMF Project Management Committee and Triage Committee. Steph currently leads a TMF team who handles the TMF day-to-day activities across vendors and CRO's at Apellis Pharmaceuticals.



Kathleen Mellet

**Title:** Associate Consultant

**Organization:** Just in Time GCP

Contract Project Manager for CDISC TMF – Serving as a member of the v4 Project Management Team, providing coordination across project planning, stakeholder engagement, and delivery activities to ensure alignment with project goals and timelines

Associate Consultant with JiT, supporting TMF implementation and optimization initiatives for clients across processes, systems, and training.



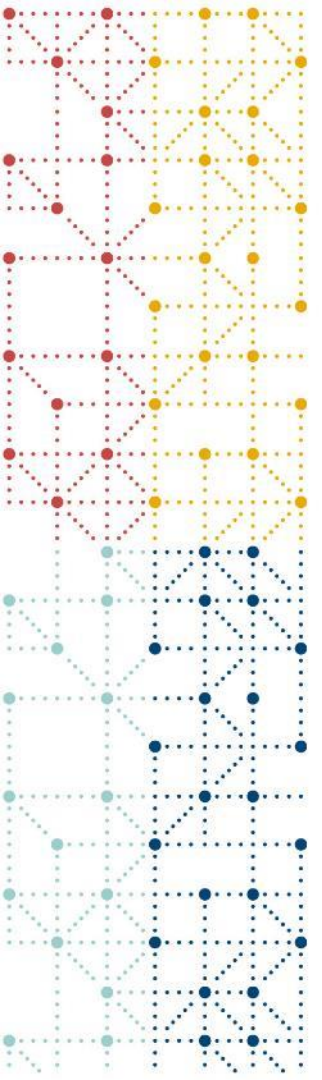
# Disclaimer and Disclosures

- The views and opinions expressed in this presentation are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of CDISC.*



# Agenda

1. Applying the Standard
2. Key Changes in TMF Standard v1
3. Strategic Planning Considerations
4. Q&A



# Understanding & Applying the TMF Standard Model

# Applying the v1 Standard

## The TMF Standard Model v1 is designed to:

- Align with regulatory requirements and provide a common framework for industry

## But the Standard is not prescriptive:

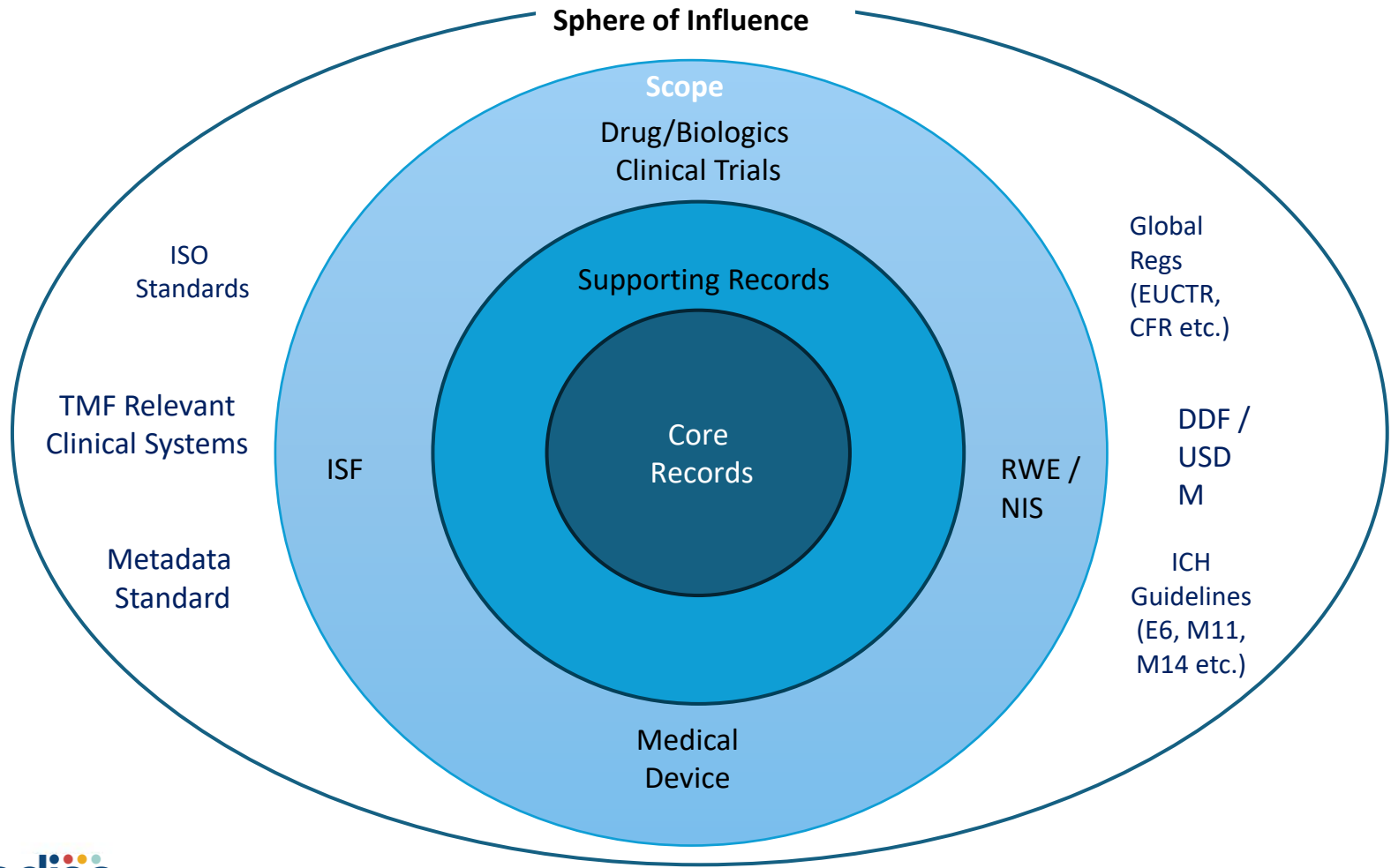
- It does not cover every scenario or replace company-specific practices

## Each company must still:

- Define best practices that fit their own processes or organizational gaps not addressed by regulations or v1



*Think of the Standard as the foundation, and your company has to build the house*





# TMF Standard v1 expectations vs Internal Process

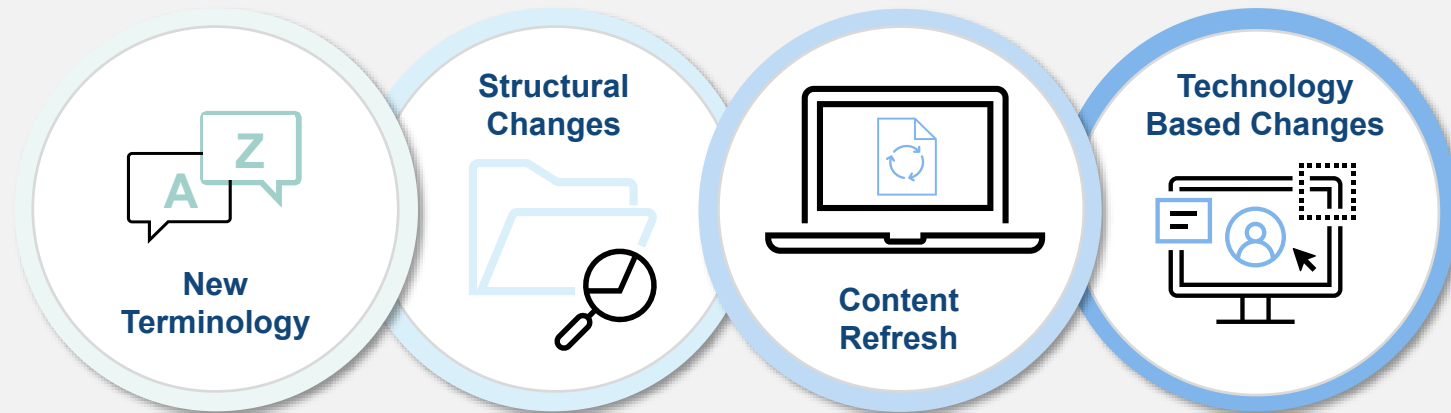
|                  | <i>TMF Standard v1 will define:</i>   | <i>Company Specific Process will define:</i>  |
|------------------|---|---|
| Records          | ✓ Standard list of Record Groups & Types (aligned with regulations)             | <input type="checkbox"/> Custom Record Groups and Record Types<br><input type="checkbox"/> The process for collection, filing, and oversight of records   |
| Filing Hierarchy | ✓ Standard filing locations within the TMF Zones & Sections                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Define locations for any custom Record within the standard TMF hierarchy<br><input type="checkbox"/> Identify filing repositories for records (e.g., eTMF, RIM, Safety Database) |
| Metadata         | ✓ Base metadata required for compliance   | <input type="checkbox"/> Application of metadata and any use of custom metadata   |
| uIDs             | ✓ Unique 5-digit ID for each standard Record Type (to support interoperability) | <input type="checkbox"/> uIDs for custom Records<br><input type="checkbox"/> Process for migrating and maintaining systems  |





## Key Changes in TMF Standard Model v1

# Overview of Changes



*The upcoming changes fall into four main categories, each with a different level of impact on existing TMF structures and processes*



# New Terminology

## What's Changing?

- The new term **“Record Group”** will replace “Artifact” to highlight collections of related records
- The new term **“Record Type”** will replace “Subartifact”

## Why is this Changing?

- To better reflect how records are organized and managed across the TMF
- Align with regulatory expectations

## What does this mean for the community?

- SOPs, training, tools, and systems should adopt **Record Group** and **Record Type** consistently

| TMF Reference Model |                  |           |                 |            |                        | Version 3.3.1   |
|---------------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|------------------------|---|
| Zone #              | Zone Name        | Section # | Section Name    | Artifact # | Artifact name          | Recommended Subartifacts - Documents/documentation recommended to be filed to the artifact. |
| 01                  | Trial Management | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01   | Trial Master File Plan | Document Transfer Documentation<br>Evidence of Quality Review<br>Request to Lock TMF        |

| TMF Standard Version 1 |           |           |                 |                |                        | Version 1               |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Zone #                 | Zone Name | Section # | Section Name    | Record Group # | Record Group           | Record Type             |
| 01                     | Trial     | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01       | Trial Master File Plan | Trial Master File Index |

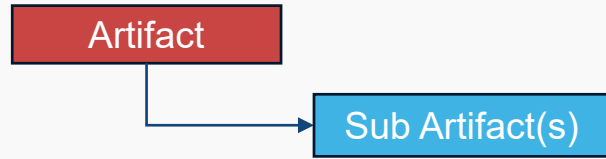


# Structural Changes

## What's Changing?

- **The TMF structure is evolving.** Instead of being organized around artifacts, the model will be structured by Record Groups and Record Types, requiring a redesigned framework.

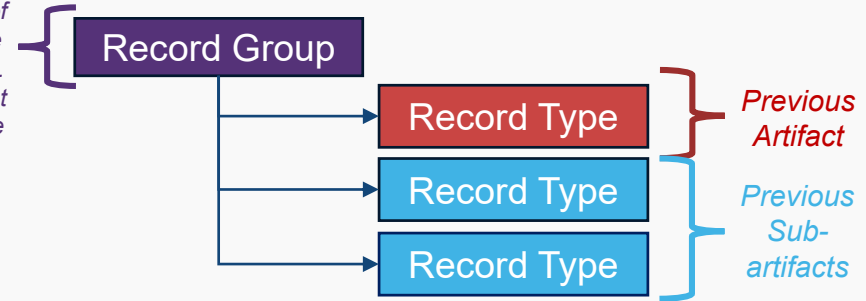
### Existing Structure



The existing structure provides only a single layer of organization.

### Updated Structure

*Record Groups provide a layer of organization like Zones/ Sections. Filing happens at the Record Type level, not the Group level.*

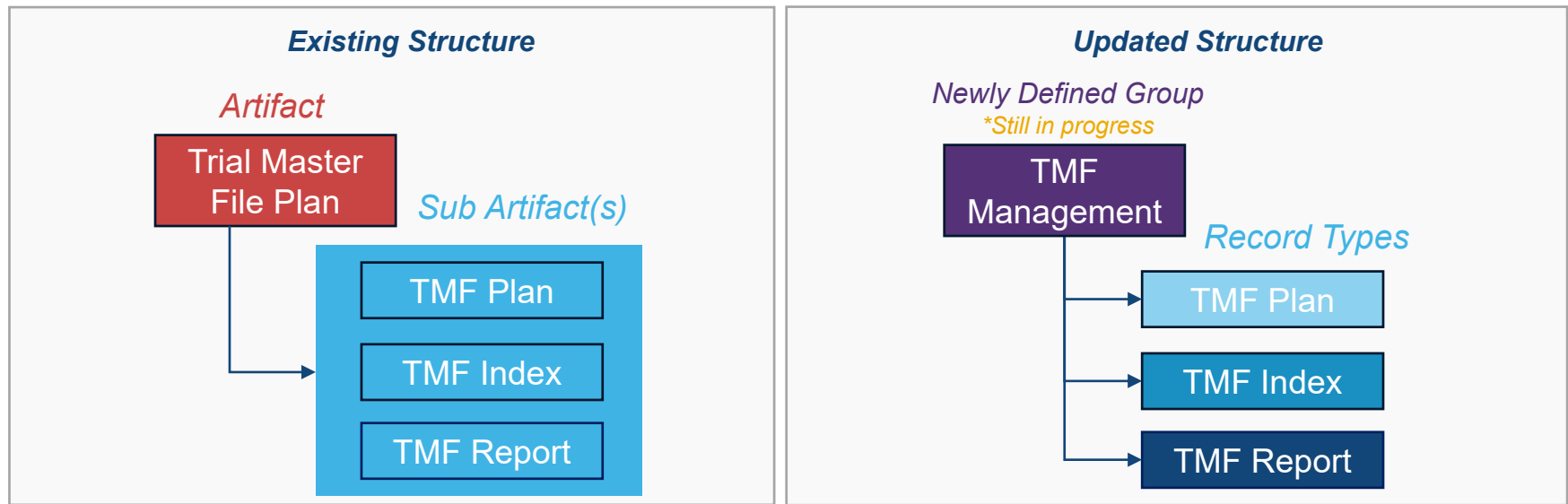


- ✓ **Improved Filing Accuracy:** Clearer filing locations ensure each record is filed in the correct place, reducing the risk of missing records
- ✓ **Enhanced Searchability:** Users can now search and filter by both Record Group and Record Type, making it easier to quickly locate specific records.



# Structural Changes (cont.)

## Structure Change Example: 01.01.01





# Content Refresh

## What's Changing?

- TMF content is being **reviewed and updated** to align with industry best practices and regulatory expectations
- Some records will be **reclassified or regrouped** for consistency, **additional records** will be introduced, and **some records will be retired** due to lack of use.

## Why is this Changing?

- With the introduction of ICH E6 R3, EU CTR, and other developments, additional record types are required
- Goals:
  - Stronger foundation for indexing, searching, and compliance
  - Streamlined reviews and inspections with related records grouped together

*DRAFT subject to change*

| Zone # | Zone Name        | Section # | Section Name    | Record Group # | Record Group Name | Record Type                     |
|--------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 01     | Trial Management | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01       | TMF Management    | Document Transfer Documentation |
| 01     | Trial Management | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01       | TMF Management    | Evidence of Quality Review      |
| 01     | Trial Management | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01       | TMF Management    | Request to Lock TMF             |
| 01     | Trial Management | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01       | TMF Management    | Trial Master File Plan          |
| 01     | Trial Management | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01       | TMF Management    | Trial Master File Index         |
| 01     | Trial Management | 01.01     | Trial Oversight | 01.01.01       | TMF Management    | Trial Master File Report        |





# Content Refresh (cont.)

*As we improve and standardize the reference model, it will grow from 250 artifacts to +/- 2000 record types. The model will grow, but we will enhance consistency, interoperability, and usability for the end user.*

**250 Artifacts**

**TMF Reference  
Model v3.3.1**

**+ Additional  
Records**

**Formalization of  
Record Types**  
(formally known as  
sub artifacts)

**+ Additional  
Records**

**Creation of new  
Record Types to  
support the current  
regulatory  
landscape**

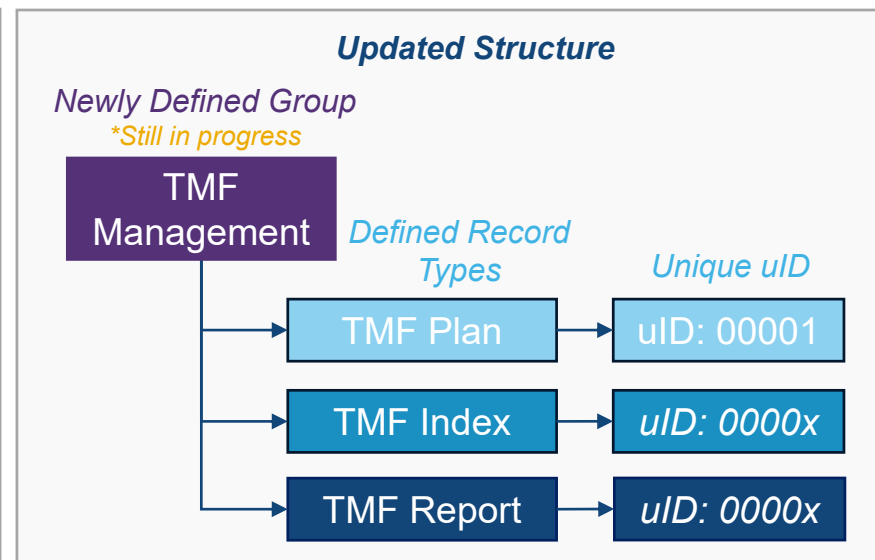
**+ Additional  
Records**

**Incorporation of  
supporting models  
(ISF, RWE, etc.)**





- uIDs will now be **5 digits** (previously 3)
- uIDs assigned at the **Record Type** level



# Technology Based Changes (Cont.)



## Defining metadata rules for V1

### What's changing?

- A core list of metadata will be formally defined to support the new standard and achieve the following goals:
  - Enable consistent usability across records.
  - Improve interoperability between systems.
  - Promote a more standardized, aligned approach



*eTMF vendors across the industry have provided recommendations to technical changes along with a list of minimum harmonized metadata suggestions*





# Strategic Planning Considerations

# What do these changes impact?

**Impact Overview:** *The upcoming changes in terminology, structure, content, and technology will require updates to core records and processes.*

**Key activities include:**

- Aligning procedures with **new terminology** and **workflows**, **re-mapping filing structures**, and **adding or retiring Record Groups/Types** as needed.
- Development of new procedures** to ensure alignment with the creation and collection of new record types.
- Change management **activities of training, guidance**, and **system updates** will be essential to ensure consistent adoption and ongoing inspection readiness.



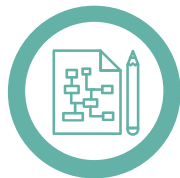
TMF SOPs



TMF Index



Forms &  
Templates



Study Plans,  
Forms &  
Templates



Training



External & Supporting  
Party Documents

# Pre v1 Release Checklist

## Build Awareness & Foundations (Q4 2025 – Q1 2026)

**Change Management** efforts begins now, by building knowledge and awareness to prepare your teams

- ☐ Educate teams on **why v1 is coming** (organization, compliance, inspection readiness)
- ☐ Share high-level summaries of changes (Record Groups/Types vs. artifacts)

## Assess Current State (Q2 2026 – Q4 2026)

Review **existing SOPs, Study Plans, Index, Forms, and Templates** for alignment and gaps

- ☐ Identify areas where terminology, filing structure, or workflows will be impacted
- ☐ Document dependencies (e.g., eTMF vendor timelines, training needs)

## Plan Ahead (Q3 2026 – Q4 2026)

Build a process and timeline for implementation

- ☐ Draft an **internal transition plan**: who owns what updates, key milestones
- ☐ Engage with **eTMF vendors** to understand their roadmap for v1 support

# Post v1 Release Checklist

## Update Documentation (Q1 2027 – Q2 2027)

Engage a cross-functional team to update the documents. Involve all relevant groups to manage risk and ensure adoption of the new processes and documentation.

- ☐ Revise **SOPs** with new terminology, structures, and workflow expectations
- ☐ Update **Study Plans** to reflect filing structure, required artifacts, and roles
- ☐ Refresh **Forms & Templates** (QC checklists, guidance, etc.) with updated terms

## Adapt the TMF Index (Q1 2027 – Q2 2027)

Update and streamline the TMF structure by reorganizing content and ensuring alignment with v1 standards

- ☐ Re-map zones, sections, and artifacts into Record Groups/Types
- ☐ Add new categories, retire outdated ones, and confirm consistency with v1

# Post v1 Release Checklist (continued)

## System Readiness (Q1 2027 – Q2 2027)

Ensure the eTMF system is configured and validated to support v1 structures and reporting. Your eTMF vendor will have already received a **v1 pre-release** to support configuration updates

- ☐ Work with eTMF system providers to implement v1-compliant structures
- ☐ Validate **system configurations, metadata fields, and reports**

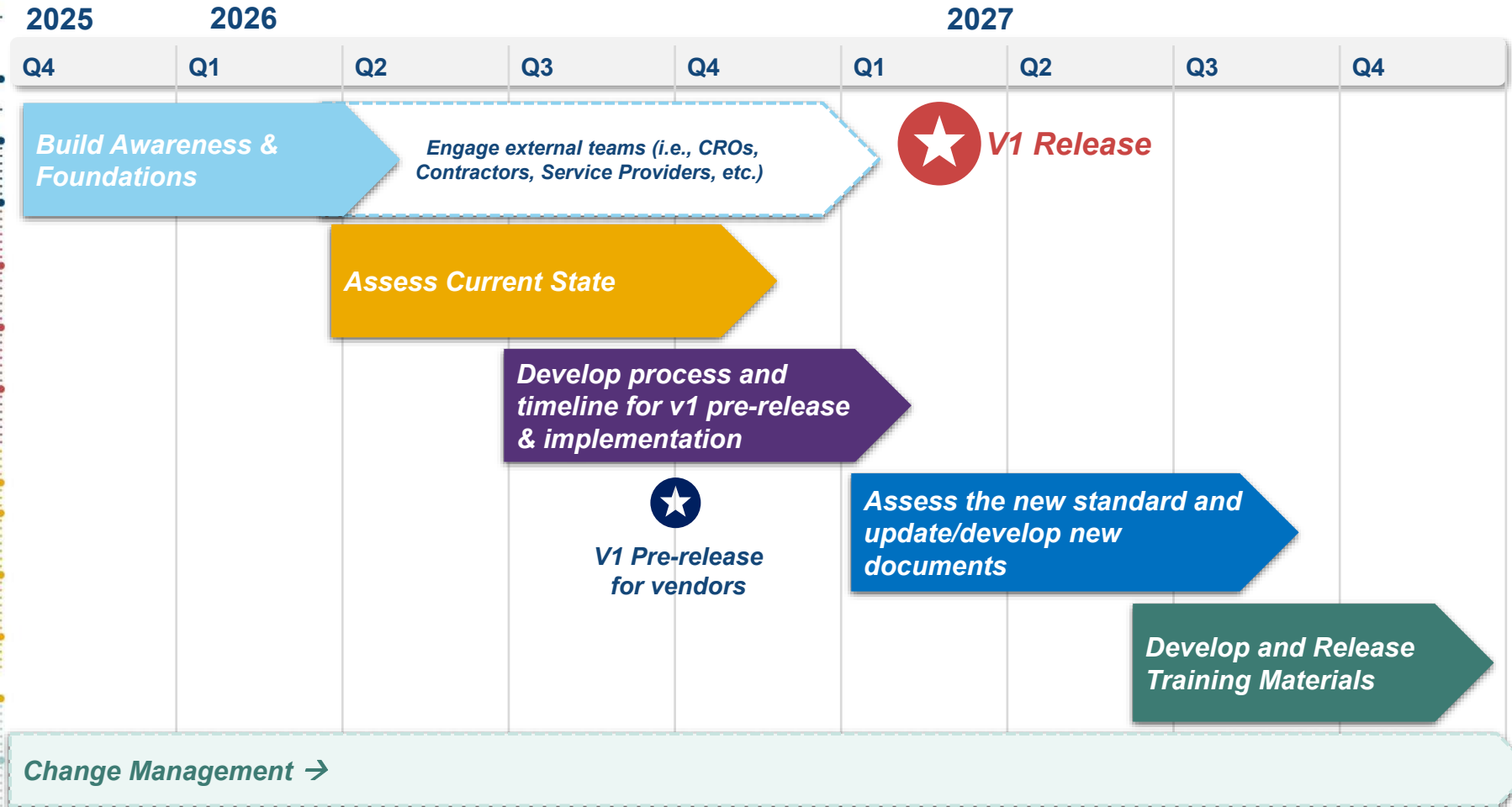
## Training and Roll out (Q3 2027– Q4 2027)

Roll out **targeted training** on the updated TMF structure and processes, providing role-specific guidance and **gathering feedback to refine adoption**.

- ☐ Deliver updated training on new terminology, structure, and filing expectations
- ☐ Provide role-specific guidance (e.g., filing staff, QC reviewers, study managers)
- ☐ Monitor early use and capture feedback for refinement



# V1 Implementation Roadmap





# Thank You!

Don't forget to meet us tomorrow morning in the  
**Ocean Room at 8 am** for breakfast

Fuel up and dive into all things v1!