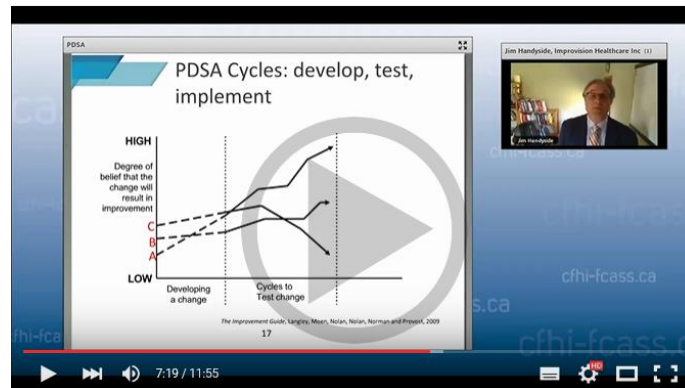


CFHI Quality Improvement Primer: Plan – Do – Study – Act (PDSA)

Watch the Primer: <https://youtu.be/1o9RYX68fN8>

(Duration: 12:24)



Faculty

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Abstract

Plan – Do – Study – Act (PDSA) is an approach to developing, testing and implementing change. The use of sequential PDSA cycles facilitates effective improvement by enabling changes to be shaped by practical experience in the context of implementation. PDSA cycles follow a similar pattern that will be familiar to many people; the scientific method, learning, treatment or nursing process. We all tacitly use PDSA every day, the challenge is to methodically apply this approach to improvement work and link PDSA tests of change to an improvement theory and performance data. Sustaining and spreading improvement requires a deep understanding of the kind of practical issues PDSA can illuminate. Using quantitative and qualitative data is a requirement of effective improvement work; the PDSA cycle provides a practical guide to collecting and using these data.

Objectives

- To become familiar with Plan – Do – Study – Act cycles.
- To recognize your experience with this approach.
- To begin to understand how to use PDSA in support of quality improvement.

Additional Resources

- Presentation slides: <http://www.cfhi-fcass.ca/sf-docs/default-source/on-call/primer-videos/PDSA-Primer-Presentation-E.pdf>
- Chapter 5, 7 and 8, *The Improvement Guide*. Langley et.al. - This textbook is highly recommended and widely used in healthcare quality improvement training. These chapters explain the Model for Improvement and explore PDSA use in testing and implementing change.
- [The problem with Plan – Do – Study – Act cycles](#). Reed and Card BMJ Quality and Safety - The authors review challenges and difficulties individuals and teams face when applying PDSA to improvement in health care.
- Ogrinc G, Shojania KG. [Building knowledge, asking questions BMJ Qual Saf 2014;23:265–267](#)