



Plan-Do-Study-Act

The PDSA is a simple yet effective strategy for implementing small tests of change in the ED or other health care setting. These tests are designed to be short in duration and provide immediate feedback on whether a change strategy was successful. The steps are as follows:

- **PLAN:** Make a plan for the change to test and how to measure its success. What small change is elected to test? Who needs to be involved? How long will it take to test? How will information be gathered about the test?
- **DO:** Once the plan is set, put it into action. The test should take no longer than 2 weeks to implement. These cycles are meant to be rapid tests of change, with immediate feedback so the team can keep moving forward or plans can be adjusted.
- **STUDY:** Once the change test is completed, assess the outcome. Was it successful? Did the team receive enough information to make a decision? What feedback was able to be gathered?
- **ACT:** Once the change test is completed and its impact assessed, the team can either adapt the change process and implement another PDSA, adopt the change if deemed to be successful in achieving its goals, or abandon the change strategy.

As your team works on the your selected bundle(s), the PDSA will be a valuable tool to help test the change strategies the team decided to implement. It is encouraged that the team conduct several PDSA cycles to ensure that the results received are not by chance but rather are directly linked to the change strategy. Do not be afraid to abandon a change strategy - there are no failures in QI, just learning. These are great opportunities to fine tune the strategies that will lead to effective and sustainable change.

Example of QI Concept: Institute for Healthcare Improvement PDSA Worksheet

Copyright © 2016 Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI). All rights reserved. IHI welcomes the use of this tool, found at [ihl.org](http://www.ihl.org).

http://www.ihl.org/education/IHIOpenSchool/resources/Assets/PDSAworksheet_Instructions.pdf