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| The PDSA Cycle is a method of trying a change on a temporary basis and learning about its potential impact. It can be used to answer the question, “How will we know that a change is an improvement?”**Key tips for testing a change using a PDSA Cycle:*** Test on a really small scale (e.g., start with one patient or one clinician at one afternoon clinic, and increase as you refine the ideas).
* Test the proposed change with people who believe in the improvement. Don’t try to convert people into accepting the change at this stage.
* Document! Use a PDSA Worksheet to make sure you have thoroughly planned the test.
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| Cycle: |  | Start Date: |  | End Date: |  |

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|  | **PLAN:** Plan the test, including a plan for collecting data. |

### **STEP 1:** **Select a change idea from your driver diagram.**

### **STEP 2:** Turn your change idea into a question, and predict what will happen.

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| What is the question you are answering by testing this change idea? |  |
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| What do you predict will happen? |  |

STEP 3: List the tasks needed to test this change.

Who, and how will you make this change happen? What needs to happen *before* this change can be tested?

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| **Task** | **Responsible Person** | **Due Date** |
| 1 |  |  |  |
| 2 |  |  |  |
| 3 |  |  |  |
| 4 |  |  |  |

### **STEP 4: Create the PDSA Cycle measurement plan.**

Review your Project Measures (i.e., Family of Measures or Global Measures) that are being measured for the duration of the project. Ask yourself - is there additional data that needs to be collected during *this change* in order to see if there is an improvement? Document what needs to be measured ONLY for this test of change.

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| **PDSA Cycle Measure Description** | **Data Source***(e.g., an individual, a survey, a check-sheet, an EMR, etc.)* | **Who Collects?***(e.g., responsible for collecting and storing data)* | **When?***(e.g., once, weekly, every instance in* ***x*** *timeframe)* |
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|  | **DO:** Run the test on a small scale.Describe what happened. What data did you collect? What observations did you make? |

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| **Was the cycle carried out as planned** (yes, no)**?** |  |
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| **What did you observe** (i.e., include quantitative measures and qualitative feedback from the team)**?** |  |
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| **What did you observe that was not part of the plan?** |  |

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|  | STUDY: Analyze the results and compare them to your predictions. Summarize and reflect on what you learned. |

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| **Was your goal achieved** (yes, no)**?** | **Yes.*** Do you plan to expand the test (yes, no)?
* Will you expand the scale (i.e., keep the same conditions, just test more)
* And/or scope (i.e., change the conditions)?
 | [Enter summary of your analysis] |
| **No.** * What data do you have to distinguish if your method of testing the change failed or if the designed change was not effective?
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| **How do results of this test compare to previous performance?** |  |
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| **Were there any barriers with the cycles’ implementation** (yes, no)**?** |  |
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| **What else did you learn?** |  |

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|  | ACT: Based on what you learned from the test, make a plan for your next step.Determine what modifications you should make — adapt, adopt, or abandon. |

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|  | **ABANDON:** Discard change idea testing. Describe what you will change. | [Enter plan for next step] |
|  | **ADAPT:** Improve the change & continue a larger scale. Develop an implementation plan for sustainability. |
|  | **ADOPT:** Select changes to implement on & try a new one |