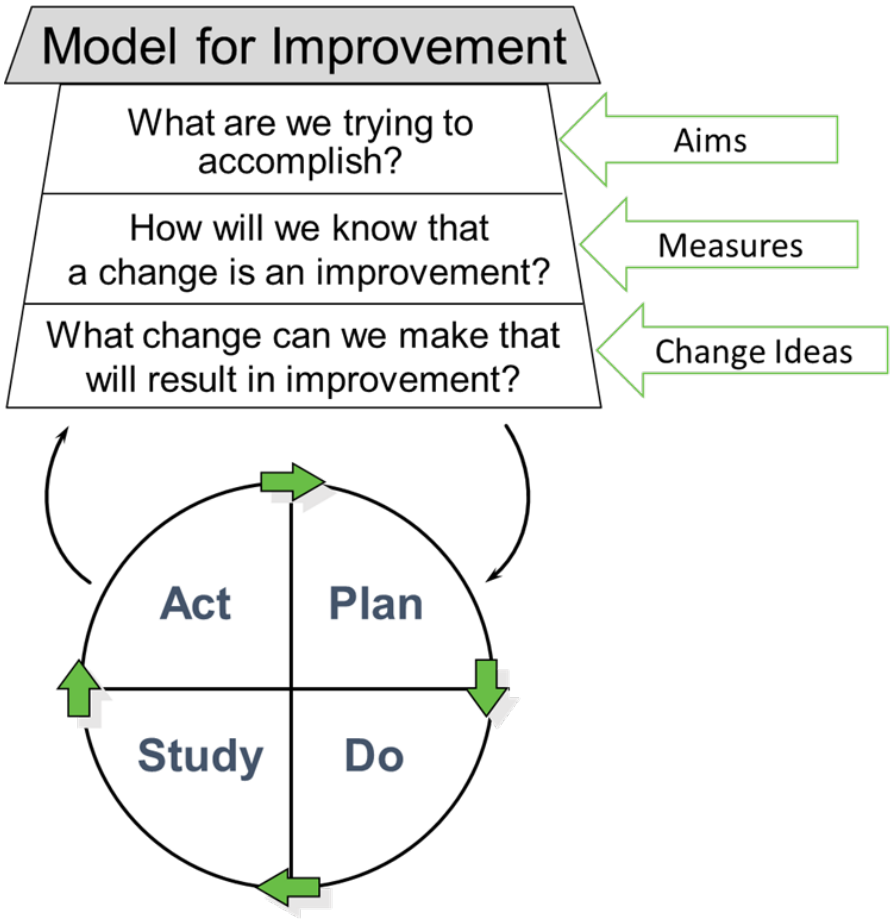
Comagine Health

Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) Essentials and Worksheet

PDSA Essentials

- Some say the PDSA is the heart of the Model for Improvement[1].
- PDSAs help us understand whether a change is likely to result in improvement.
- We have turned it into a verb: "Let's PDSA that."
- A PDSA is not a project plan or a pilot (usually). It is ***ONE*** change on a small scale.
- Create an objective or aim before starting a PDSA.
- Designing and executing PDSAs is a skill. Don't expect everyone to know what it is or how to do it.
- Build skill by practice and feedback using "See one. Do one. Teach one." This hardwires PDSA expertise.
- Data collection for a PDSA should not be onerous.
- Make sure to complete the STUDY and ACT portion of the PDSA.
- Run PDSAs under different conditions (e.g., different clinician, alternate clinic location) to make sure your assumptions and conclusions are accurate.
- The more PDSAs you conduct, the faster you'll learn and improve your processes.



[1] *The Improvement Guide: A Practical Approach to Enhancing Organizational Performance*. G. Langley, K. Nolan, T. Nolan, C. Norman, L. Provost.

PDSA Worksheet

Date:	PDSA Cycle:
Aim/objective for this PDSA cycle:	
Specific change being tested:	

PLAN

What questions do we have?

What do we predict will happen?

Plan for change or test (including communication plan):

Plan for collection of data (who, what, when, where):

DO

Carry out the change or test, collect data and begin analysis

STUDY

Complete analysis of data, summarize what was learned

ACT

Will we adapt, adopt or abandon the change? If we adapt, what is the plan for the next cycle or will we adapt and implement the change? if we adopt, how will we ensure/measure sustainability?