

Answer these suggested questions for each phase of the PDSA cycle.

Plan

Who will be involved in this PDSA? (*Involve those who will be affected by the change: e.g., specific members of program leadership, residents, faculty, the coordinator, others*)

What change is being tested with the PDSA cycle(s)?

What do you predict will happen and why?

Plan a small test of change.

How long will this change take to implement?

What resources will be needed?

What data will be collected?

List the action steps and the individuals responsible and a timeline.

Do

Carry out the test of change on a small scale.

Document observations, including problems and unexpected findings.

Collect data you identified as needed during the “Plan” stage.

Describe what actually happened when you ran the test.

Study

Study and analyze the data.

Determine if the change resulted in the expected outcome.

Were there implementation lessons?

Summarize what was learned. Look for: successes, failures, surprises, and unintended consequences (both good and bad).

Describe the results based on the data you collected, and how they compare to your aims and predictions.

Act

Based on what was learned from the test of change:

Adapt—modify the changes and repeat PDSA cycle.

Adopt—consider expanding the changes to other areas, such as rotations, units, etc.

Abandon—change your approach and repeat the PDSA cycle.

Describe what modifications to the plan will be made for the next cycle based on what you learned.

Adapted from a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Quality Assessment Program Improvement Tool.