



PLAN-DO-STUDY-ACT CYCLE

The Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle is a widely used tool in healthcare to **help guide quality initiatives and drive continuous improvement**. It involves four key steps – **Plan, Do, Study, and Act** – that allow teams to test changes and evaluate their impact.

The PDSA cycle is **not a one-time event**. Its iterative nature means it is repeated multiple times, enabling ongoing learning and refinement to foster a culture of continuous improvement.

WHY USE IT?

- The PDSA cycle helps organizations **break down complex challenges** and test changes on a small scale before full implementation.
- It provides a **logical sequence of steps** that guide teams through testing a change, creating opportunities to learn and adapt.
- The cycle is **data-driven**, ensuring that decisions are informed by evidence – not assumptions.
- It encourages **collaboration in problem-solving** and empowers staff by seeking their input during implementation.



Further information and worksheets on the PDSA cycle can be found here: [Quality Improvement Education](#)