HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND
Kupu Taurangi Hauora o Aotearoa

Planning for testing

Plan-do-study-act (PDSA) cycles

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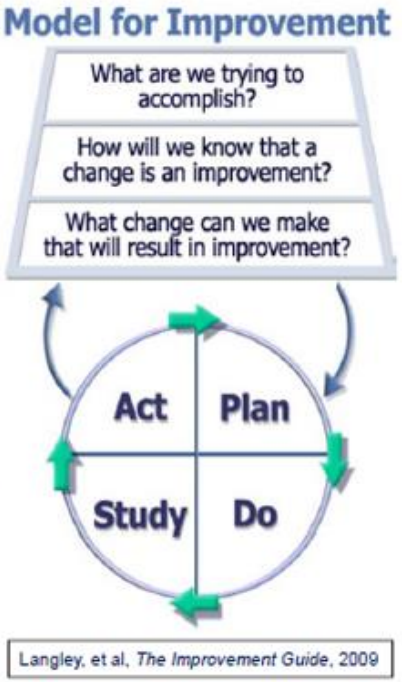
A model for learning and change

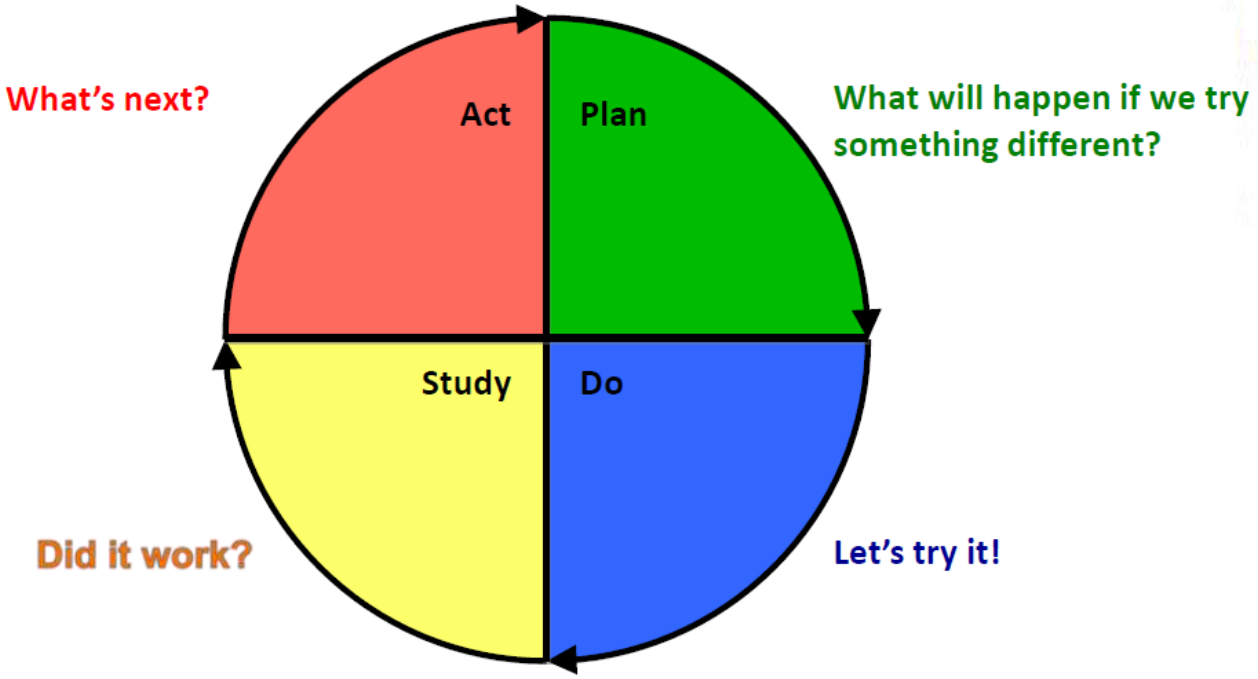
When you combine the 3 questions with the...

PDSA cycle, you get...



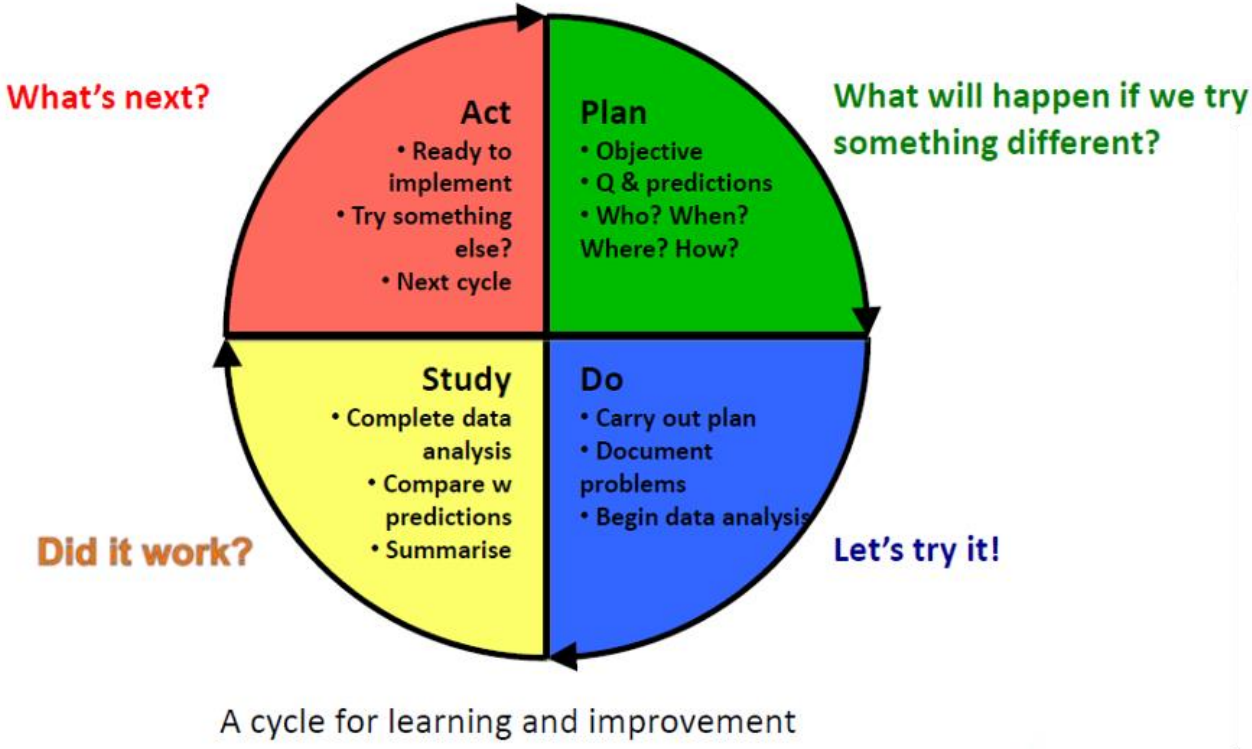
...the Model for Improvement.

Introducing plan-do-study-act



A cycle for learning and improvement

Introducing plan-do-study-act



A cycle for learning and improvement

Hints for planning useful PDSA cycles

- Think a couple of cycles ahead of the initial test (future tests, implementation).
- Scale down the size and decrease the time required for the initial test.
- Do not require buy-in or consensus as a prerequisite for the test (for instance, recruit volunteers, or run tests to evaluate conflicting ideas).
- Use temporary supports to facilitate the change during the test.

Improvement Science Consulting

Improvement Guide, 2009, p. 143

What does that mean practically?

- Very Small Scale = a simulation, a test with 1 patient, for 1 hour, for 1 shift, in 1 ward
- Small Scale = A test with 10 patients, for a whole week, across different shifts
- Large Scale = A test with half of the eligible patients, across several wards, in different localities, etc.
- Implement = to make the status quo or default way of acting for all patients, everyday, in every appropriate setting, across all staff – replaces what was

Disclaimer: Scale of a test should be determined against the degree of belief in an idea by the team and their subject matter expertise – balance is needed

Three options after test

Three options after review results from PDSA test:

X abandon (glad did small)

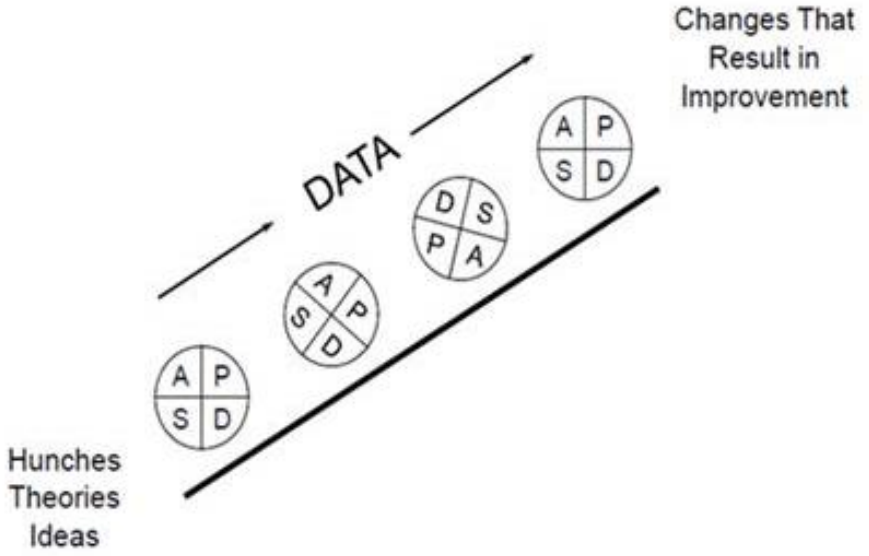
✓ adopt (as tested; test at larger scale?)

@ adapt (and test)

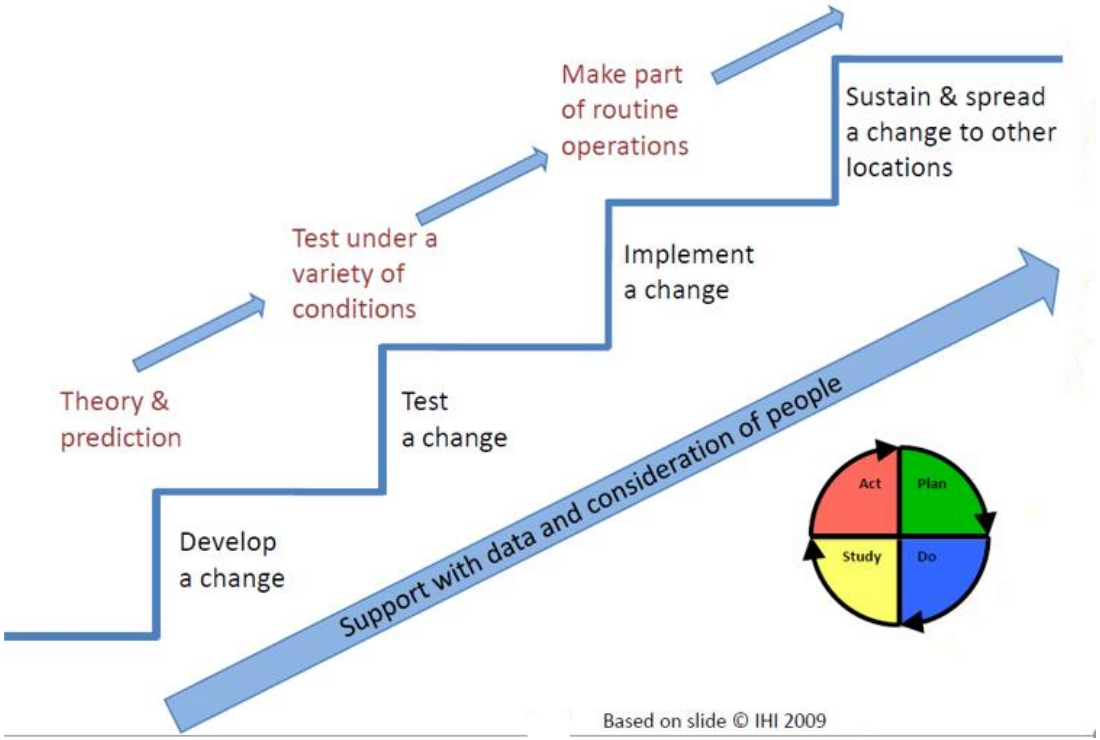
Why test? Why not just implement and spread?

- Increases degree of belief
- Document expectations
- Build common understanding
- Evaluate costs and side-effects
- Explore theories and predictions
- Test ideas under different conditions
- Learn and adapt

Repeated use of the PDSA cycle

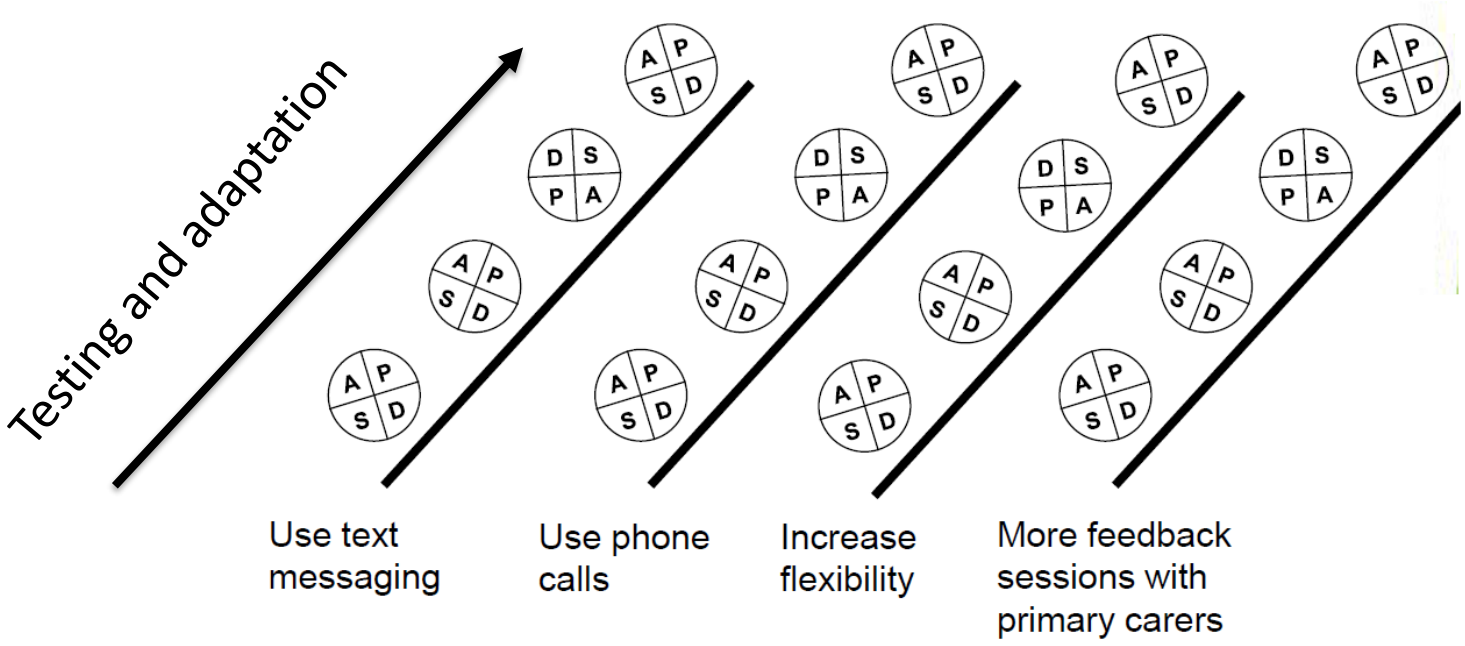


Sequence for improvement



Based on slide © IHI 2009

Example of testing multiple changes



Aim: Increase attendance at follow-up appointments

PDSA worksheet

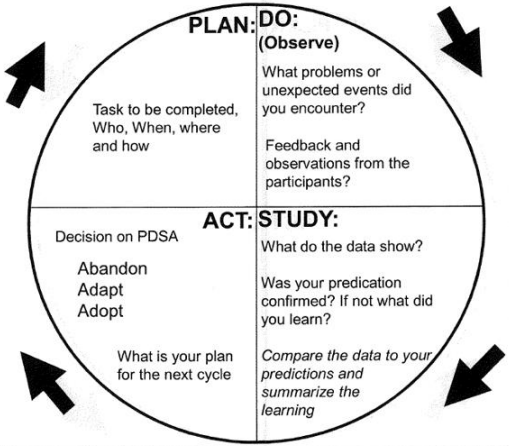
PDSA #	PDSA Title	PDSA Date:

Objective of this PDSA:

Change: Briefly Describe the specific change you plan to test

Questions

What question(s) do we want to answer on this PDSA cycle?



Predictions

What do you think will happen?

Prediction on Change:

Prediction on Question(s)

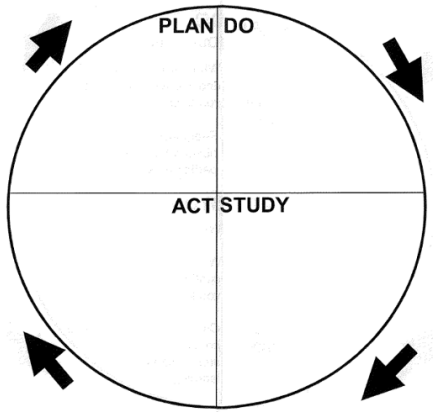
Measurements: What data will you need to test your prediction(s)? How will you collect it.

Test#	PDSA Title:	PDSA Date:	Owner:

Objective of this PDSA

Change Idea:

Questions:



Predictions:

Measurements

PDSA in action

The value of ‘failed’ tests

“I did not fail one thousand times; I found one thousand ways how not to make a light bulb.”

Thomas Edison