

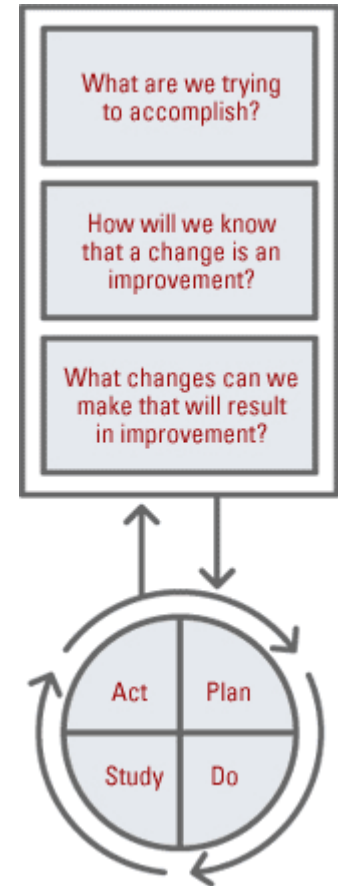
# PDSA Directions and Examples

The Plan-Do-Study-Act method is a way to test a change that is implemented. By going through the prescribed four steps, it guides the thinking process into breaking down the task into steps and then evaluating the outcome, improving on it, and testing again. Most of us go through some or all of these steps when we implement change in our lives, and we don't even think about it. Having them written down often helps people focus and learn more.

For more information on the Plan-Do-Study-Act, go to the [IHI \(Institute for Healthcare Improvement\) Web site](#)

Keep the following in mind when using the PDSA cycles to implement the health literacy tools:

- **Single Step** - Each PDSA often contains only a segment or single step of the entire tool implementation.
- **Short Duration** - Each PDSA cycle should be as brief as possible for you to gain knowledge that it is working or not (some can be as short as 1 hour).
- **Small Sample Size** - A PDSA will likely involve only a portion of the practice (maybe 1 or 2 doctors). Once that feedback is obtained and the process refined, the implementation can be broadened to include the whole practice.



## Filling out the worksheet

**Tool:** Fill in the tool name you are implementing.

**Step:** Fill in the smaller step within that tool you are trying to implement.

**Cycle:** Fill in the cycle number of this PDSA. As you work through a strategy for implementation, you will often go back and adjust something and want to test if the change you made is better or not. Each time you make an adjustment and test it again, you will do another cycle.

## PLAN

**I plan to:** Here you will write a concise statement of what you plan to do in this testing. This will be much more focused and smaller than the implementation of the tool. It will be a small portion of the implementation of the tool.

**I hope this produces:** Here you can put a measurement or an outcome that you hope to achieve. You may have quantitative data like a certain number of doctors performed teach-back, or qualitative data such as nurses noticed less congestion in the lobby.

**Steps to execute:** Here is where you will write the steps that you are going to take in this cycle. You will want to include the following:

- The population you are working with – are you going to study the doctors' behavior or the patients' or the nurses'?
- The time limit that you are going to do this study – remember, it does not have to be long, just long enough to get your results. And, you may set a time limit of 1 week but find out after 4 hours that it doesn't work. You can terminate the cycle at that point because you got your results.

## **DO**

After you have your plan, you will execute it or set it in motion. During this implementation, you will be keen to watch what happens once you do this.

**What did you observe?** Here you will write down observations you have during your implementation. This may include how the patients react, how the doctors react, how the nurses react, how it fit in with your system or flow of the patient visit. You will ask, “Did everything go as planned?” “Did I have to modify the plan?”

## **STUDY**

After implementation you will study the results.

**What did you learn? Did you meet your measurement goal?** Here you will record how well it worked, if you meet your goal.

## **ACT**

**What did you conclude from this cycle?** Here you will write what you came away with for this implementation, if it worked or not. And if it did not work, what can you do differently in your next cycle to address that. If it did work, are you ready to spread it across your entire practice?

## **Examples**

Below are 2 examples of how to fill out the PDSA worksheet for 2 different tools, Tool 17: Get Patient Feedback and Tool 5: The Teach-Back Method. Each contain 3 PDSA cycles. Each one has short cycles and works through a different option on how to disseminate the survey to patient (Tool 17: Patient Feedback) and how to introduce teach-back and have providers try it. (Tool 5: The Teach-Back Method).

# PDSA (plan-do-study-act) worksheet

Name of Organization / Program

Date

**TOOL:** Patient Feedback

**STEP:** Dissemination of surveys

**CYCLE:** 1<sup>st</sup> Try

## PLAN

**I plan to:** We are going to test a process of giving out satisfaction surveys and getting them filled out and back to us.

**I hope this produces:** We hope to get at least 25 completed surveys per week during this campaign.

### Steps to execute:

1. We will display the surveys at the checkout desk.
2. The checkout attendant will encourage the patient to fill out a survey and put it in the box next to the surveys.
3. We will try this for 1 week.

## DO

### What did you observe?

- We noticed that patients often had other things to attend to at this time, like making an appointment or paying for services and did not feel they could take on another task at this time.
- The checkout area can get busy and backed up at times.
- The checkout attendant often remembered to ask the patient if they would like to fill out a survey.

## STUDY

### What did you learn? Did you meet your measurement goal?

We only had 8 surveys returned at the end of the week. This process did not work well.

## ACT

### What did you conclude from this cycle?

Patients did not want to stay to fill out the survey once their visit was over. We need to give patients a way to fill out the survey when they have time.

We will encourage them to fill it out when they get home and offer a stamped envelope to mail the survey back to us.

# PDSA (plan-do-study-act) worksheet

**TOOL:** Patient Feedback

**STEP:** Dissemination of surveys

**CYCLE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Try

## PLAN

**I plan to:** We are going to test a process of giving out satisfaction surveys and getting them filled out and back to us.

**I hope this produces:** We hope to get at least 25 completed surveys per week during this campaign.

### Steps to execute:

1. We will display the surveys at the checkout desk.
2. The checkout attendant will encourage the patient to take a survey and an envelope. They will be asked to fill the survey out at home and mail it back to us.
3. We will try this for 2 weeks.

## DO

### What did you observe?

- The checkout attendant successfully worked the request of the survey into the checkout procedure.
- We noticed that the patient had other papers to manage at this time as well.
- Per Checkout attendant only about 30% actually took a survey and envelope.

## STUDY

### What did you learn? Did you meet your measurement goal?

We only had 3 surveys returned at the end of 2 weeks. This process did not work well.

## ACT

### What did you conclude from this cycle?

Some patients did not want to be bothered at this point in the visit – they were more interested in getting checked out and on their way.

Once the patient steps out of the building they will likely not remember to do the survey.

We need to approach them at a different point in their visit when they are still with us – maybe at a point where they are waiting for the doctor and have nothing to do.

# PDSA (plan-do-study-act) worksheet

**TOOL:** Patient Feedback

**STEP:** Dissemination of surveys

**CYCLE:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Try

## PLAN

**I plan to:** We are going to test a process of giving out satisfaction surveys and getting them filled out and back to us.

**I hope this produces:** We hope to get at least 25 completed surveys per week during this campaign.

### Steps to execute:

1. We will leave the surveys in the exam room next to a survey box with pens/pencils.
2. We will ask the nurse to point the surveys out/hand them out after vitals and suggest that while they are waiting they could fill out our survey and put it in box.
3. We will see after 1 week how many surveys we collected.

## DO

### What did you observe?

- Upon self report, most nurses reported they were good with pointing out or handing the patient the survey.
- Some patients may need help reading survey but nurses are too busy to help.
- On a few occasions the doctor came in while patient filling out survey so survey was not complete.

## STUDY

### What did you learn? Did you meet your measurement goal?

We had 24 surveys in the boxes at the end of 1 week. This process worked better.

## ACT

### What did you conclude from this cycle?

Approaching patients while they are still in the clinic was more successful.

Most patients had time while waiting for the doctor to fill out the survey.

We need to figure out how to help people who may need help reading the survey.

# PDSA (plan-do-study-act) worksheet

Name of Organization / Program

Date

**TOOL:**

**STEP:**

**CYCLE:**

**PLAN**

**We plan to:**

**We hope this produces:**

**Steps to execute:**

**DO**

**What did you observe?**

**STUDY**

**What did you learn? Did you meet your measurement goal?**

**ACT**

**What did you conclude from this cycle?**

# PDSA (plan-do-study-act) worksheet

**TOOL:**

**STEP:**

**CYCLE:**

**PLAN**

**We plan to:**

**I hope this produces:**

**Steps to execute:**

**DO**

**What did you observe?**

**STUDY**

**What did you learn? Did you meet your measurement goal?**

**ACT**

**What did you conclude from this cycle?**

# PDSA (plan-do-study-act) worksheet

TOOL:

STEP:

CYCLE:

**PLAN**

I plan to:

I hope this produces:

Steps to execute:

**DO**

What did you observe?

**STUDY**

What did you learn? Did you meet your measurement goal?

**ACT**

What did you conclude from this cycle?