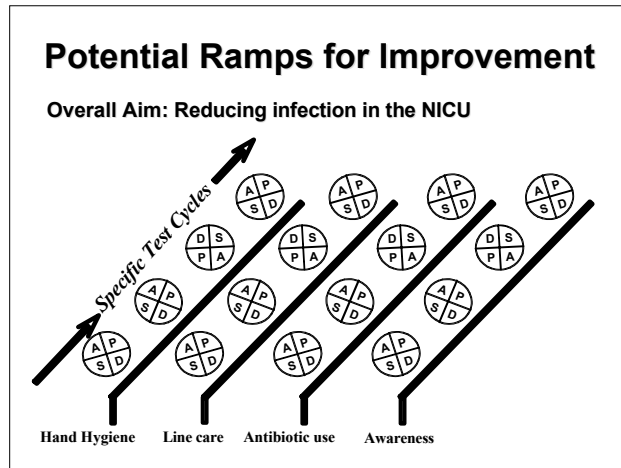


Planning PDSA Cycles and Ramps

The slide at right was described in the workshop. It illustrates that we might have a combination of several ramps of improvement running in parallel, each with a sequence of PDSA cycles. The process below will help you in thinking clearly about how to stage the ramps and cycles that you want to pursue using your ideas for improvement that build toward accomplishing your aim.

1. For each of your selected ideas for improvement, list the steps and small-tests of change required to fully test that idea. Consider the up-front steps needed to gain buy-in and fully design the idea. Then, consider initially testing with only a few people, a few days, on one shift, with certain types of patients, etc.



Example

Idea for improvement: Implement new UI assessment process

Steps and small scale tests of change (PDSA cycles):

1. Gather examples from literature search and by posting questions on listserv.
2. Develop our trial process.
3. Test the guideline for face-validity by showing it to a few nurses.
4. Have 2 nurses test the process with a few patients.
5. Expand the test to include patients for whom assessment is more difficult.
6. Consider modifications or enhancements to the guideline to address any issues identified in these PDSA cycles.
7. Have 2 nurses test the modified process. Determine what it will take to implement fully.
8. Test supporting material to implementation: checklist, worksheet, learning guide.
9. Implement on one unit.

2. Consider the need for sequencing, or coordinating among, several ideas and/or cycles.

Example

- Ideas A and B can be worked on in parallel by separate teams.
- Depending on the outcome from ideas A and B, we will develop a plan for idea C and start working on that idea.
- If we have good experiences with all these ideas, we will then consider tackling idea D, which depends on having good motivation and morale to be successful.

3. Refer back to the hierarchy of aims that you constructed on the Aims Worksheet and consider any further needs for sequencing and coordination of change effort.

Example

- As we begin working on idea C, we will need to coordinate with the team working on aim XYZ, as they have a similar idea. If they start their work before us, we may be able to learn from them and eliminate a few of our early PDSA cycles/tests.