<table>
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<th>PDSA/PDCA</th>
<th>AAAHC Study Development Steps</th>
<th>Standards v43</th>
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| **PLAN:** Plan the test, including a plan for collecting data.  
  - State the question you want to answer and make a prediction about what you think will happen.  
  - Develop a plan to test the change. (Who? What? When? Where?)  
  - Identify the data you will need to collect. | 1. Purpose of the study: quantify the gap and explain why it’s important  
  2. Set goal: define what your organization is trying to achieve  
  3. Identify reasons for the performance gap; explain the why | QUA.270  
The organization demonstrates that continuous improvement is occurring by conducting quality improvement studies when the data collection processes indicate that improvement is or may be warranted. |
| **DO:** Run the test on a small scale.  
  - Carry out the test.  
  - Document problems and unexpected observations.  
  - Collect and begin to analyze data. | 4. Define your corrective action(s) and implement | QUA.270.10  
As evidenced by documentation of quality improvement studies conducted, the studies include the applicable components of the quality improvement process. |
| **STUDY/CHECK:** Analyze the results and compare them to your predictions.  
  - Complete, as a team, if possible, your analysis of the data.  
  - Compare the data to your prediction.  
  - Summarize and reflect on what you learned. | 5. Remeasure to ensure improvement and sustainment | QUA.270.20  
At least one current quality improvement study demonstrates that improvement occurred and has been sustained. |
| **ACT:** Based on what you learned from the test, make a plan for your next step.  
  - Adapt (make modifications and run another test), adopt (test the change on a larger scale) or abandon (don’t do another test on this change idea).  
  - Prepare a plan for the next PDSA. | 5. Remeasure to ensure improvement and sustainment (if goal not met)  
  6. Communicate widely before, during, and after | QUA.270.30  
As documented in committee and/or staff meeting minutes, and/or in records of educational activities, the findings of quality improvement activities are communicated:  
  QUA.270.20.1 To the governing body  
  QUA.270.30.2 Throughout the organization, as appropriate. |
The AAAHC Study Development Steps describes the components that should appear in a quality improvement study. This chart shows one way the PDSA/PDCA model can crosswalk with the standards and these components. The AAAHC recommends that the search for a meaningful QI study begins with a review of the data that your organization is already collecting and an evaluation of your performance against benchmarks – your own (internal) or those of like organizations (external). If you find that you are not meeting the benchmarking, then you have identified a study opportunity.

References:


