Facilitator Version

Open School

Video Activity: PDSA Cycles: From CLABSIs to Cucumbers

(http://www.ihi.org/education/IHIOpenSchool/resources/Pages/Activities/PDSACyclesFromCLABSIsToCucumbers.aspx)

Don Goldmann, MD, Chief Medical and Scientific Officer, Institute for Healthcare Improvement

Facilitator Instructions

- Review the learning objectives and description with your group.
- Watch the video together (6 min 04 sec).
- As a group, discuss your reactions to the video, using the discussion questions as a guide.

Learning Objectives

At the end of this activity, you will be able to:

- Explain the four stages of a PDSA cycle.
- Discuss why predictions are critical to PDSA cycles.
- Identify an appropriate scope for a PDSA cycle.
- Give an example of a PDSA cycle within health care.

Description

Don Goldmann, MD, the Chief Medical and Scientific Officer at IHI, has led dozens of improvement projects throughout his career. He’s helped to reduce infection rates, decrease wait times, and improve communication among staff.

He also likes growing cucumbers.

In a new IHI Open School Video Short, Goldmann explains the science behind the Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle, using central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSIs) and cucumbers as his subjects. Why are predictions so important? What’s the ideal size for an initial PDSA cycle? How does Goldmann get from surgical drapes to garden trellises? Watch this video to find out.
Related IHI Open School Online Courses

- QI 102: The Model for Improvement: Your Engine for Change
- QI 105: The Human Side of Quality Improvement
- QI 106: Mastering PDSA Cycles and Run Charts

Key Topics

Quality Improvement, Build Capacity, Improvement Capacity and Capability, Improvement Methods (General), Systems Thinking, Spreading Changes, Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA), Central Line Infection

Facilitator, show the video on this page. For your group’s discussion after the video, feel free to adjust these questions and/or add your own.

Discussion Questions

1. In the example about CLABSIs, what would be a reasonable next PDSA cycle?
2. What PDSA cycles do you use in your daily work, even if that’s not the name you use for them?
3. What’s the value of a failed PDSA cycle?
4. Think about the last PDSA cycle you ran in your personal life — even if you didn't know it was a PDSA cycle at the time. Was it successful? Why or why not?