

How Do Innovation and Improvement Differ?

Learning Objectives

- Describe what innovation and improvement have in common.
- Discuss the difference between innovation and improvement.
- Identify two circumstances that may require innovation rather than improvement.

Description: Innovation and improvement are both tools to make systems better. What sets them apart? In this video, Kedar Mate, MD, Senior Vice President of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, explains the difference between innovation and improvement. He also describes the situations that call for innovation because improvement may not be enough to produce positive change.

Watch the video at <https://youtu.be/UytkXEdh9MQ> or [read the transcript](#).

Discussion Questions

1. Can you think of an example of a problem that requires improvement?
2. Can you think of an example of a problem that requires innovation?
3. When might incremental change be favorable to a larger, single-step change?
4. How do you think innovation and improvement can work together?