

# Introduction to Improvement Science

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# Description

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## **Improvement Science- what is it and why should I use it?**

In healthcare we are part of a complex system, which requires us to accept a constantly changing landscape of emerging science, clinical care, patients and families, and multi-disciplinary staff. This complex system achieves what it is designed to achieve and for many indicators, our outcomes are not what we want for our patients. Developing an understanding of improvement theory and its tools has been shown to effectively support change. During this session we will focus on the Model for Improvement and Deming's Theory of Profound Knowledge, while also discussing a model we know well- the Scientific Method.



# Objectives

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- Describe improvement science and its application in healthcare.
- Illustrate the three key questions of the Model for Improvement by describing an effort in your organization.
- Describe the sequence of improvement and the key tools and methods that can be applied during the QI journey.
- Discuss the scientific method and its comparison to the PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycle



# Science of Improvement



# Quality Theory Influencers....



**W. Edwards  
Deming  
(1900-1993)**  
PDCA Cycle  
14 Points  
System of  
Profound Knowledge

## Deming's Mentor...

**Walter A. Shewhart (1891-1967)**

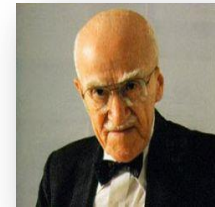
Father of SPC  
Shewhart Cycle (1939)  
Theory of Variation



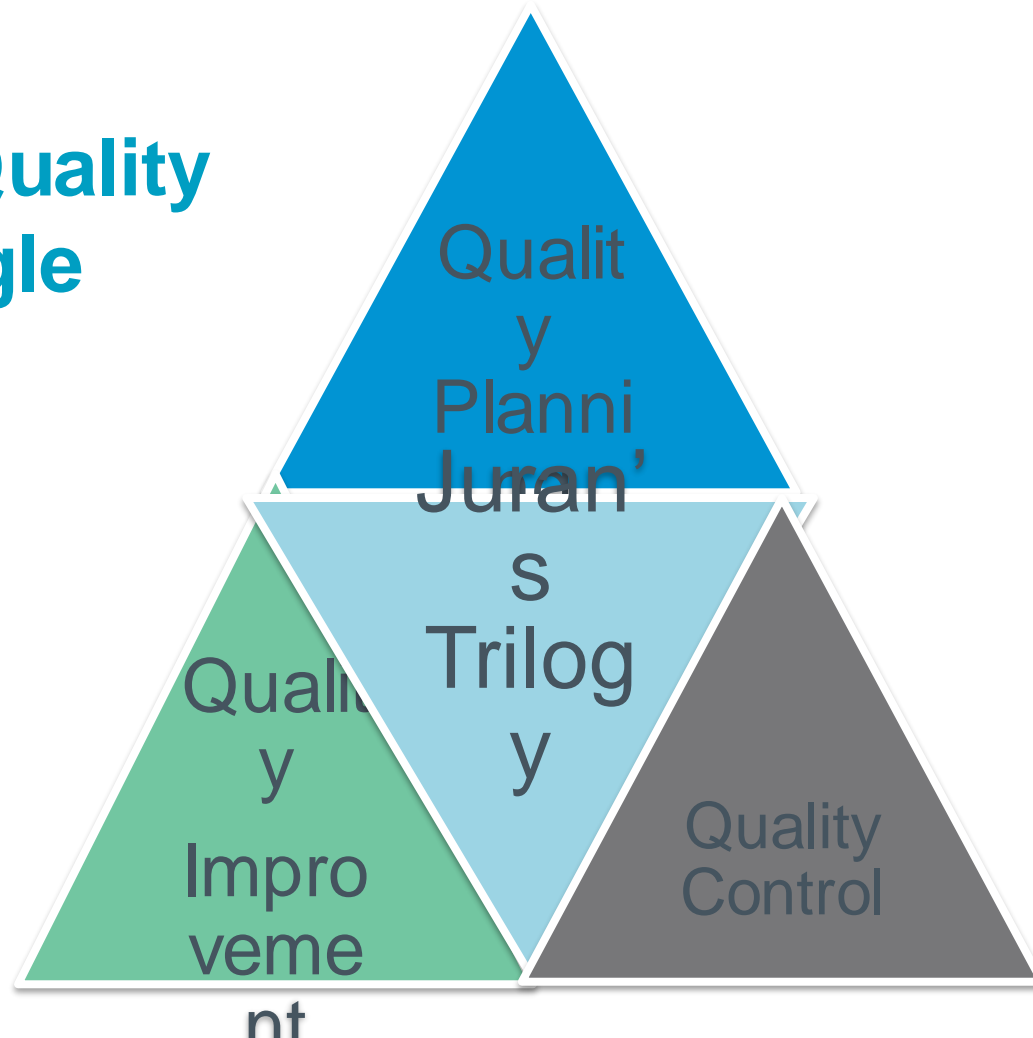
## Deming's Peer ....

**Joseph M. Juran (1904-2008)**

Pareto Principle (80 -20) ( 1937)  
Juran Trilogy (1986)  
(quality planning, quality control,  
and quality improvement)



# The Quality Triangle



# QA and QI

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- Quality Assurance

*“Implementation of planned and systematic activities in a health system, for fulfilment of quality requirements of a product or a clinical service.”*

*Don Berwick “reliance on inspection to improve”*

- Quality Improvement

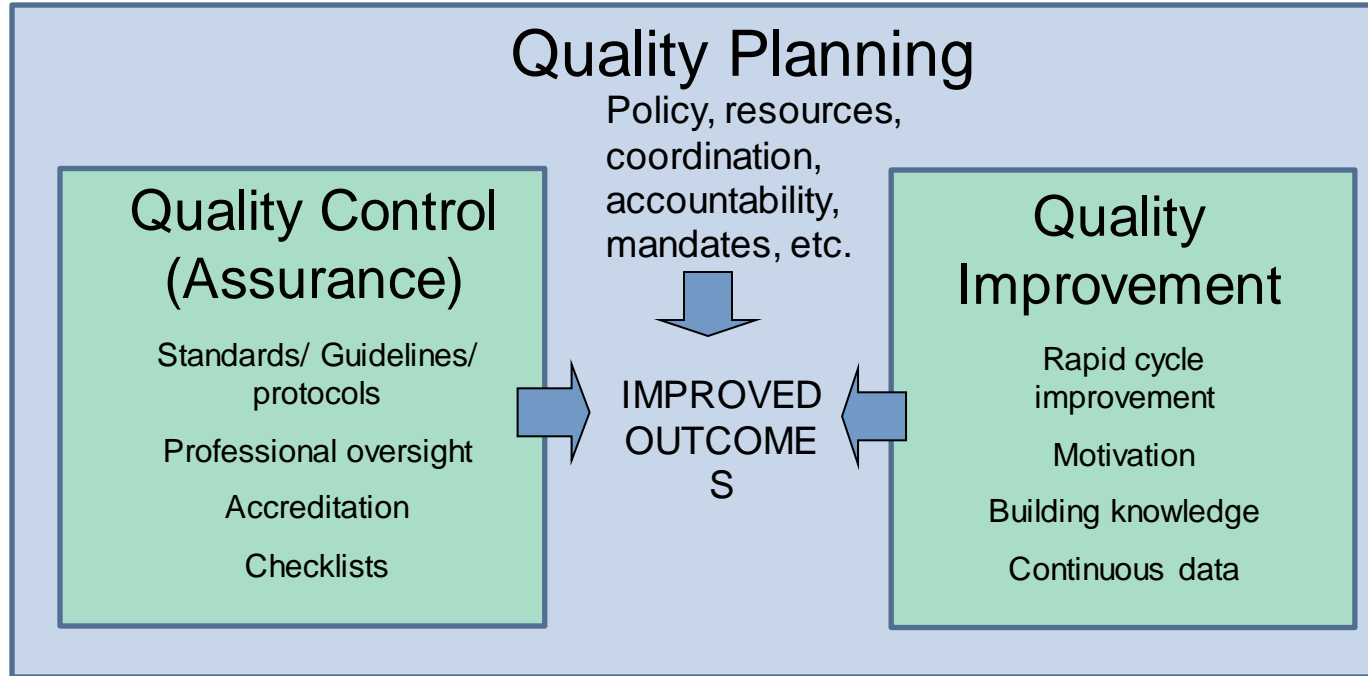
- Alter how work or activity is done or the makeup of a product
- Produce visible, positive differences in results relative to historic norms
- Have a lasting impact

*Don Berwick “make things actually better”*



# Components of quality: structure, quality control and quality improvement

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# Quick Exercise

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Think of your work: List 8 processes you work with everyday.

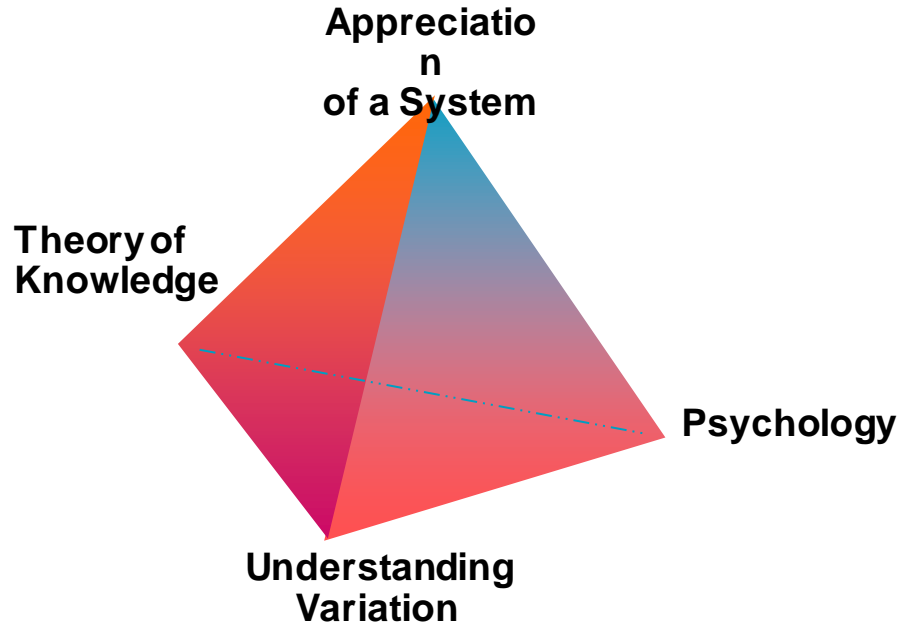
When you look at the three elements of the Juran Trilogy, where do we spend most of our time?

- Quality Planning
- Quality Control
- Quality Improvement

Where would you say you spend your time with those processes:  
***planning, controlling, or improving? Let's collect some data***



# W. E. Deming's System of Profound Knowledge



"One need not be eminent in any part of profound knowledge in order to understand it and to apply it. The various segments of the system of profound knowledge **cannot be separated**. They interact with each other. **For example, knowledge about psychology is incomplete without knowledge of variation.**"

**Profound - having intellectual depth and insight (Webster)**

# Combining Methods & Subject Matter Expertise

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Subject Matter  
Knowledge

## **Subject Matter Knowledge:**

Knowledge basic to the things we do in life. Professional knowledge.

## **Science of Improvement:**

The interplay of the theories of systems, variation, knowledge, and psychology.



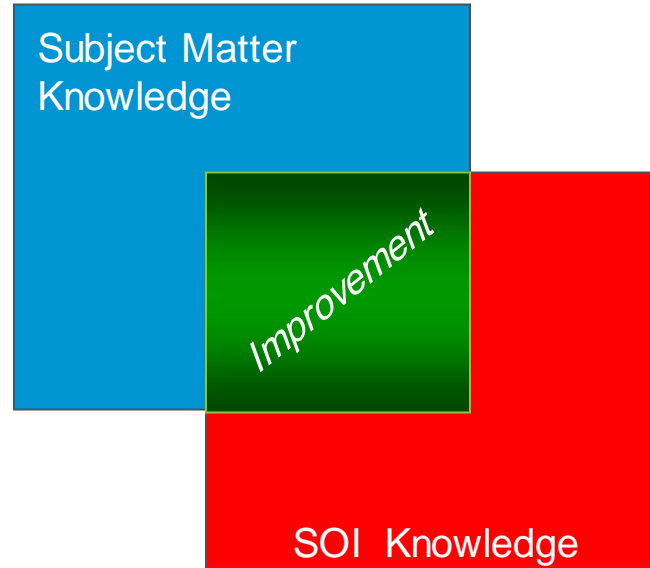
SOI Knowledge



# Combining Methods & Subject Matter Expertise

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Improvement occurs when we learn how to combine subject matter knowledge and the science of improvement in creative ways to develop effective ideas for change.



# Characteristics of the Applied Science of Improvement

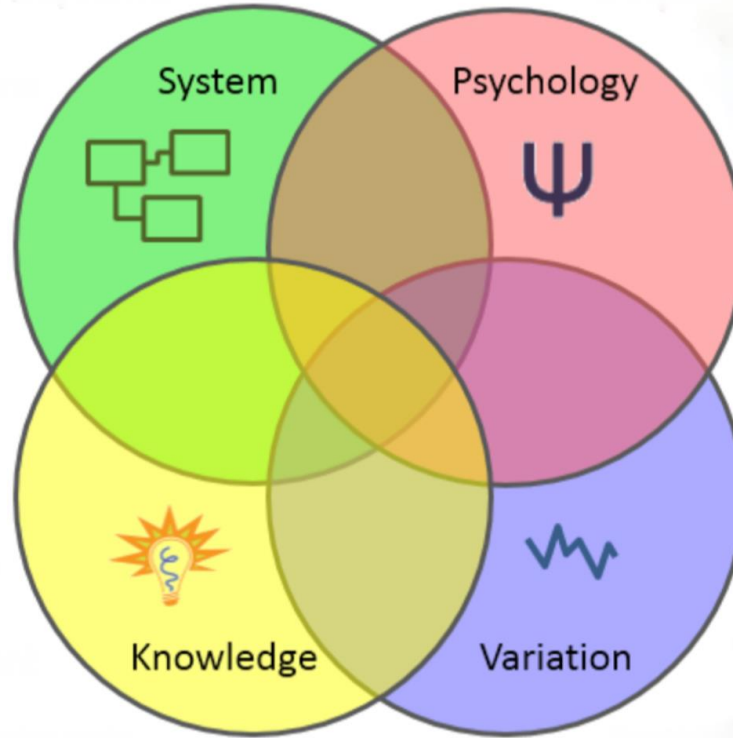
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1. Bias toward action learning
2. Focus on prediction of future outcomes
3. Multiple testing cycles before implementation
4. Visual display to learn from data
5. Learning from special and common causes
6. Simple and complex study designs
7. Ongoing interaction of scientists and practitioners



# System of Profound Knowledge

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# Aims, Measures, & Tests of Change

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When you  
combine  
the 3  
questions  
with the...

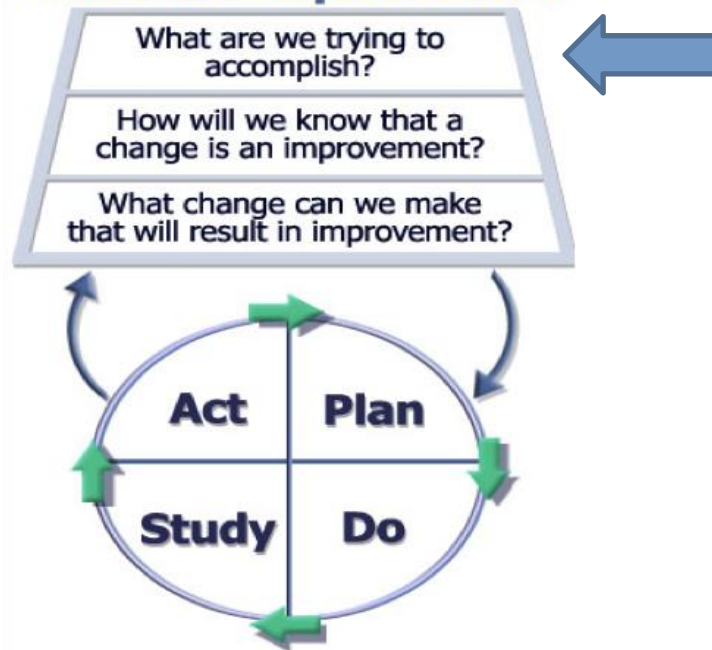
PDSA  
cycle, you  
get...



...the Model  
for  
Improvement

# Model for Improvement

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# Aim – What are we trying to accomplish?

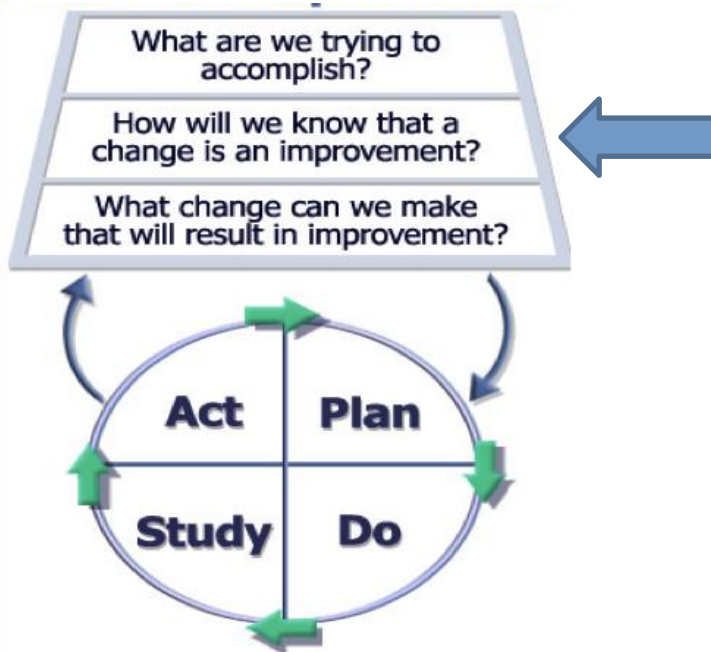
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- An organization will not improve without a clear and firm intention to do so.
- The aim should be **time-specific** and **measurable**; it should also define the **specific population** of patients that will be a
- Example:
  - Reduce adverse drug events (ADEs) in critical care by 75 percent within 1 year.
  - Reduce the average length of stay for Medical ICU patients by 50 percent within 9 months.



# Model for Improvement

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# Why Test Changes?

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- To increase the belief that the change will result in improvements in your setting
- To learn how to adapt the change to conditions in your setting
- To evaluate the costs and “side-effects” of changes
- To minimise resistance when spreading the change throughout the organisation



## Aim:

*Every goal will require multiple smaller tests of change*

Describe your first (or next) test of change:	Person responsible	When to be done	Where to be done

## Plan

List the tasks needed to set up this test of change	Person responsible	When to be done	Where to be done

Predict what will happen when the test is carried out	Measures to determine if prediction succeeds

## Do

Describe what actually happened when you ran the test

## Study

Describe the measured results and how they compared to the predictions

## Act

Describe what modifications to the plan will be made for the next cycle from what you learned

# Start Small ~ 1:3:5:All

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- 1 patient
- 1 day
- 1 admit
- 1 clinician



# Move Quickly to Testing Changes

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- Year
- Quarter
- Month
- Week
- Day
- Hour



*“What tests can we complete by next Tuesday?”*

# Complete List of Change Concepts

## Eliminate Waste

1. Eliminate things that are not used
2. Eliminate multiple entry
3. Reduce or eliminate overkill
4. Reduce controls on the system
5. Recycle or reuse
6. Use substitution
7. Reduce classifications
8. Remove intermediaries
9. Match the amount to the need
10. Use Sampling
11. Change targets or set points

## Improve Work Flow

12. Synchronize
13. Schedule into multiple processes
14. Minimize handoffs
15. Move steps in the process close together
16. Find and remove bottlenecks
17. Use automation
18. Smooth workflow
19. Do tasks in parallel
20. Consider people as in the same system
21. Use multiple processing units
22. Adjust to peak demand

## Optimize Inventory

23. Match inventory to predicted demand
24. Use pull systems
25. Reduce choice of features
26. Reduce multiple brands of same item

## Change the Work Environment

27. Give people access to information
28. Use Proper Measurements
29. Take Care of basics
30. Reduce de-motivating aspects of pay system
31. Conduct training
32. Implement cross-training
33. Invest more resources in improvement
34. Focus on core process and purpose
35. Share risks
36. Emphasize natural and logical consequences
37. Develop alliances/cooperative relationships

## Enhance the Producer/customer relationship

38. Listen to customers
39. Coach customer to use product/service
40. Focus on the outcome to a customer
41. Use a coordinator
42. Reach agreement on expectations
43. Outsource for "Free"
44. Optimize level of inspection
45. Work with suppliers

## Manage Time

46. Reduce setup or startup time
47. Set up timing to use discounts
48. Optimize maintenance
49. Extend specialist's time
50. Reduce wait time

## Manage Variation

51. Standardization (Create a Formal Process)
52. Stop tampering
53. Develop operation definitions
54. Improve predictions
55. Develop contingency plans
56. Sort product into grades
57. Desensitize
58. Exploit variation

## Design Systems to avoid mistakes

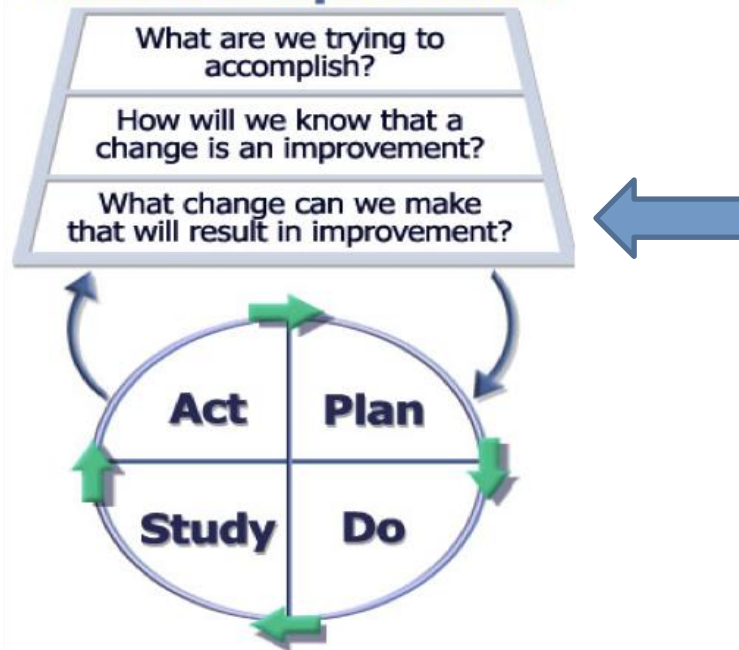
59. Use reminders
60. Use differentiation
61. Use constraints
62. Use affordances

## Focus on the product or service

63. Mass customize
64. Offer product/service anytime
65. Offer product/service anywhere
66. Emphasize intangibles
67. Influence or take advantage of fashion trends
68. Reduce the number of components
69. Disguise defects or problems
70. Differentiate product using quality dimensions

# Model for Improvement

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## **PDSA Measures**

Guide  
Learning  
about our  
testing.

## **Process Measures**

Guide  
Learning  
about how our  
testing is  
improving  
reliability of  
the process.

## **Outcome Measures**

Guide  
Learning  
about how  
the reliability  
of the  
process is  
achieving  
our aim.



Types of Measures	Description	The Surgical Site Infection FOM
Outcome	The voice of the customer or patient. How is the system performing? What is the result?	Surgical Site Infection Rate
Process	The voice of the workings of the process. Are the parts or steps in the system performing as planned.	Percentage of appropriate prophylactic antibiotic selection. Percentage of on time administration of prophylactic antibiotics. Percentage of a safety climate score great than 4.
Balancing	Looking at a system from different directions or dimensions. What happened to the system as we improved the outcome and improvement measures?	Patient satisfaction Cost per case



# Tips for Building Effective Measurement Systems

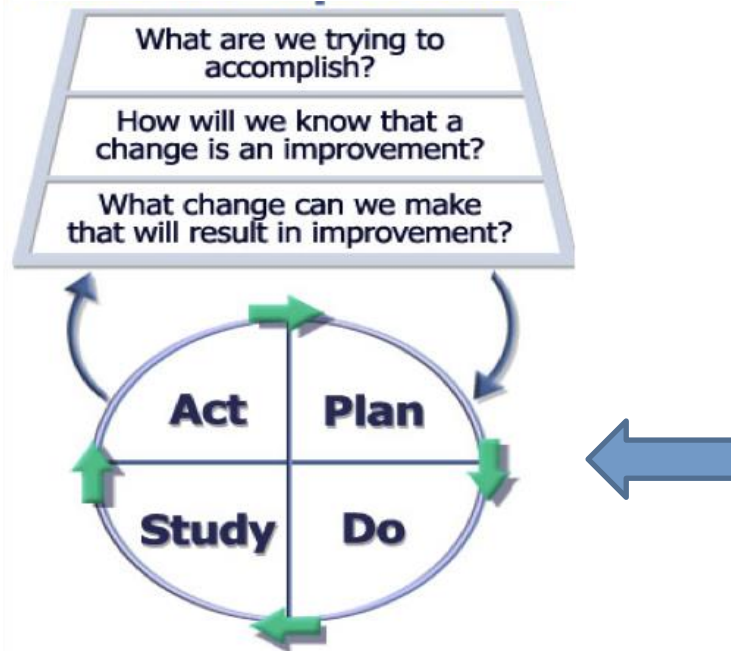
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1. Plot data over time.
2. Seek usefulness, not perfection.
3. Be practical – sample when needed.
4. Integrate measurement into the daily routine.
5. Use qualitative and quantitative data.



# Model for Improvement

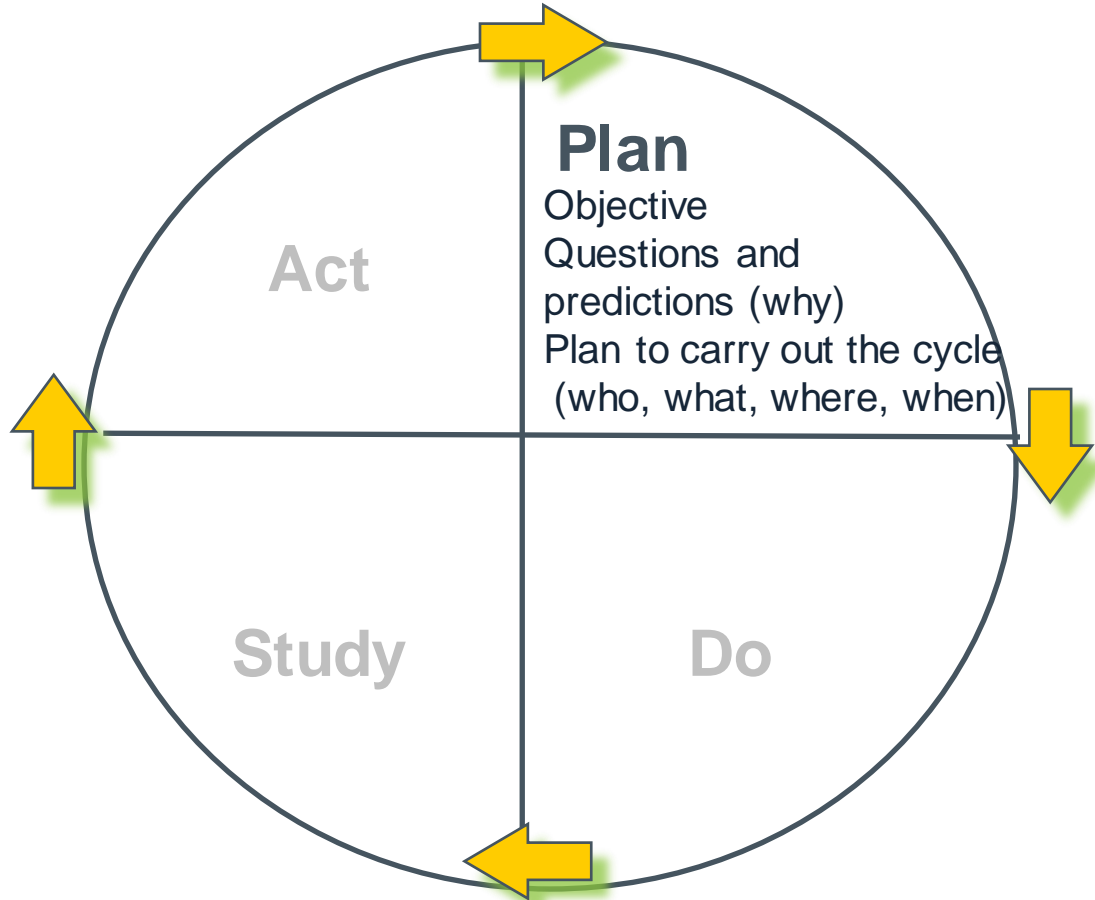
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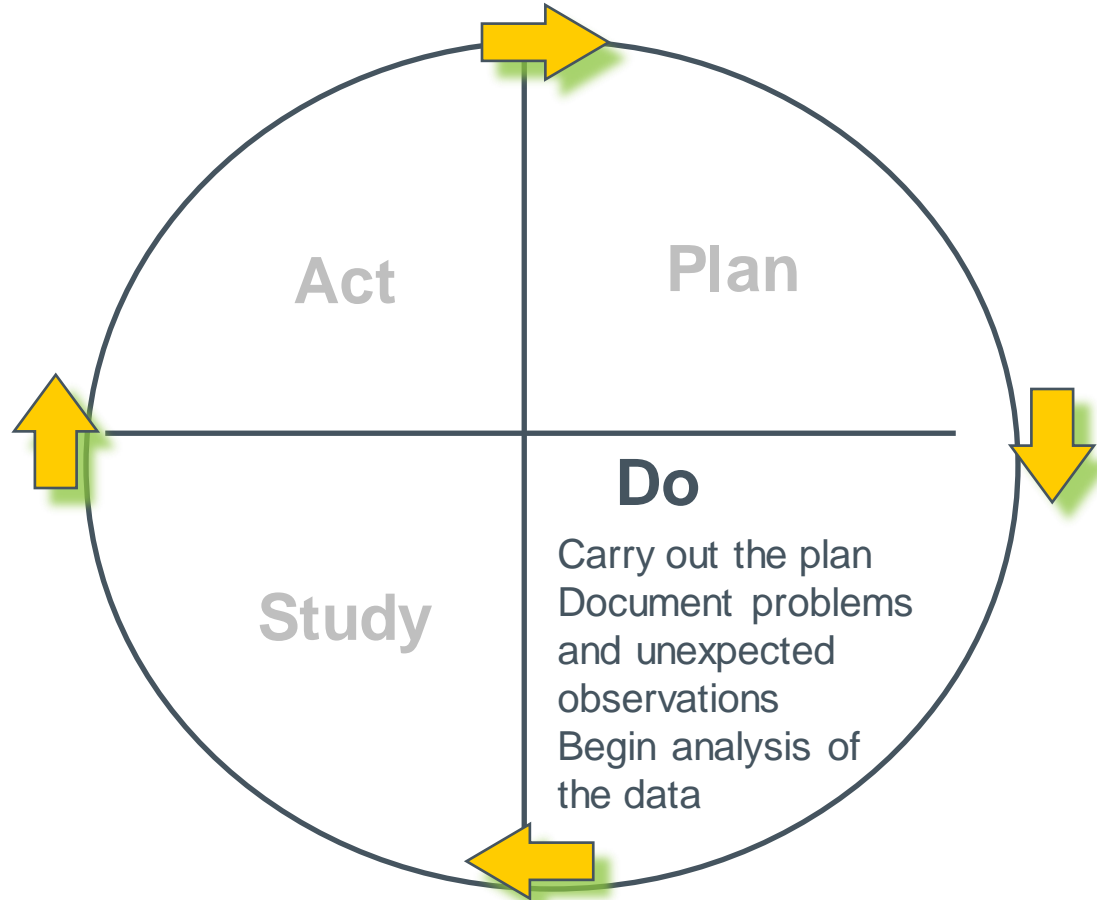
# The PDSA Cycle



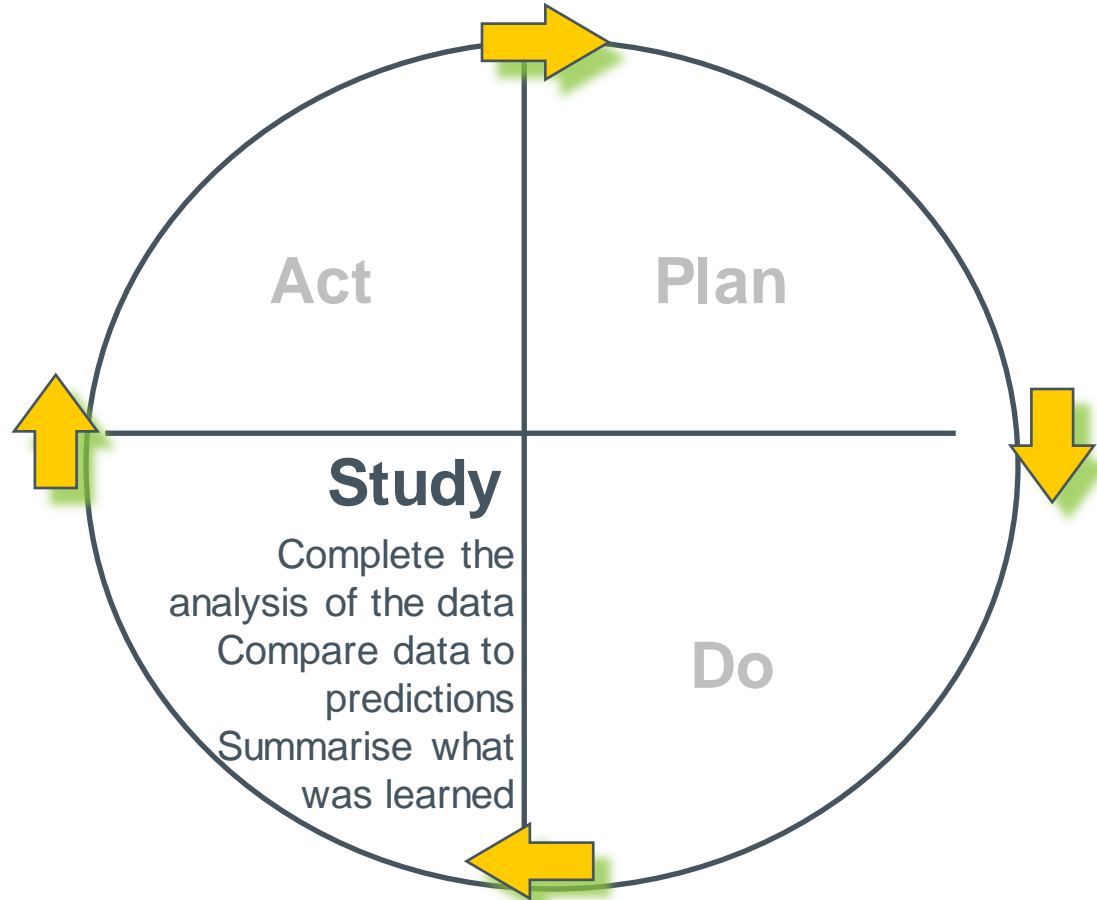
# Plan, Do, Study, Act Cycle



# Plan, **Do**, Study, Act Cycle

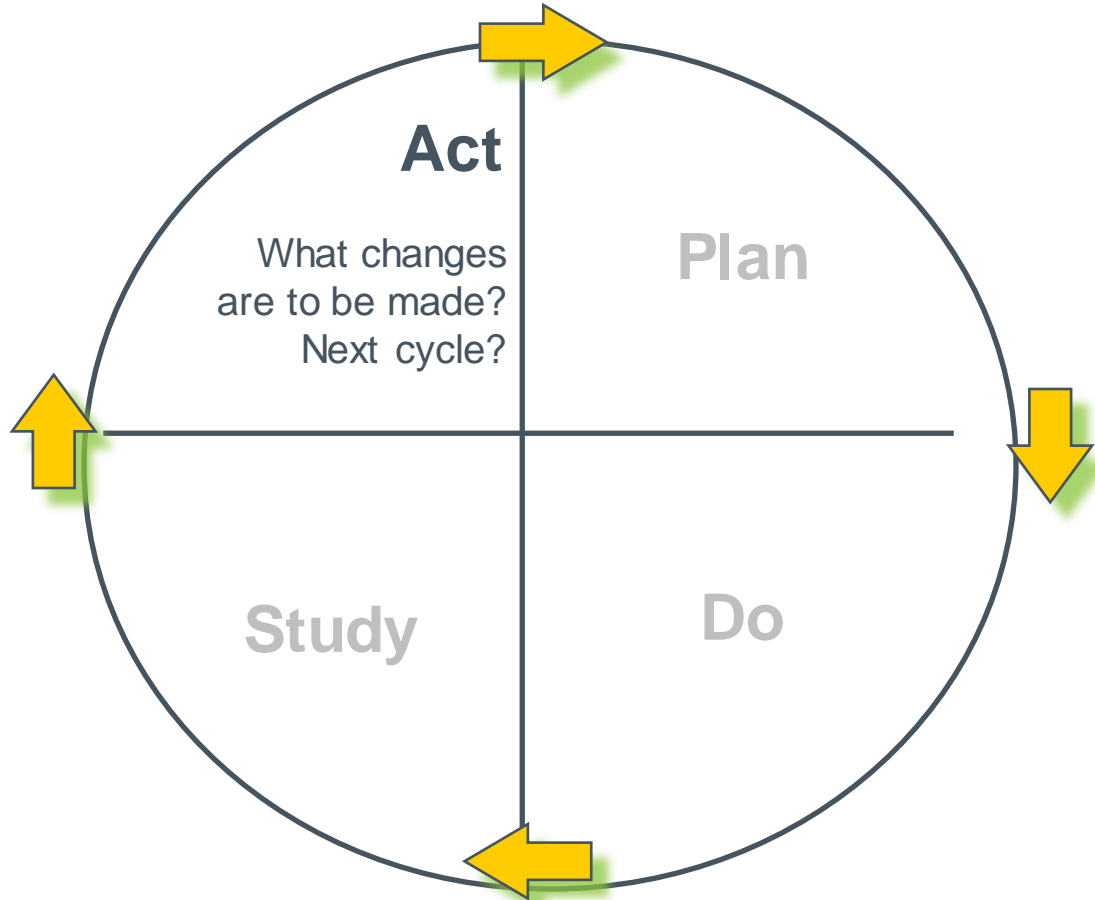


# Plan, Do, **Study**, Act Cycle





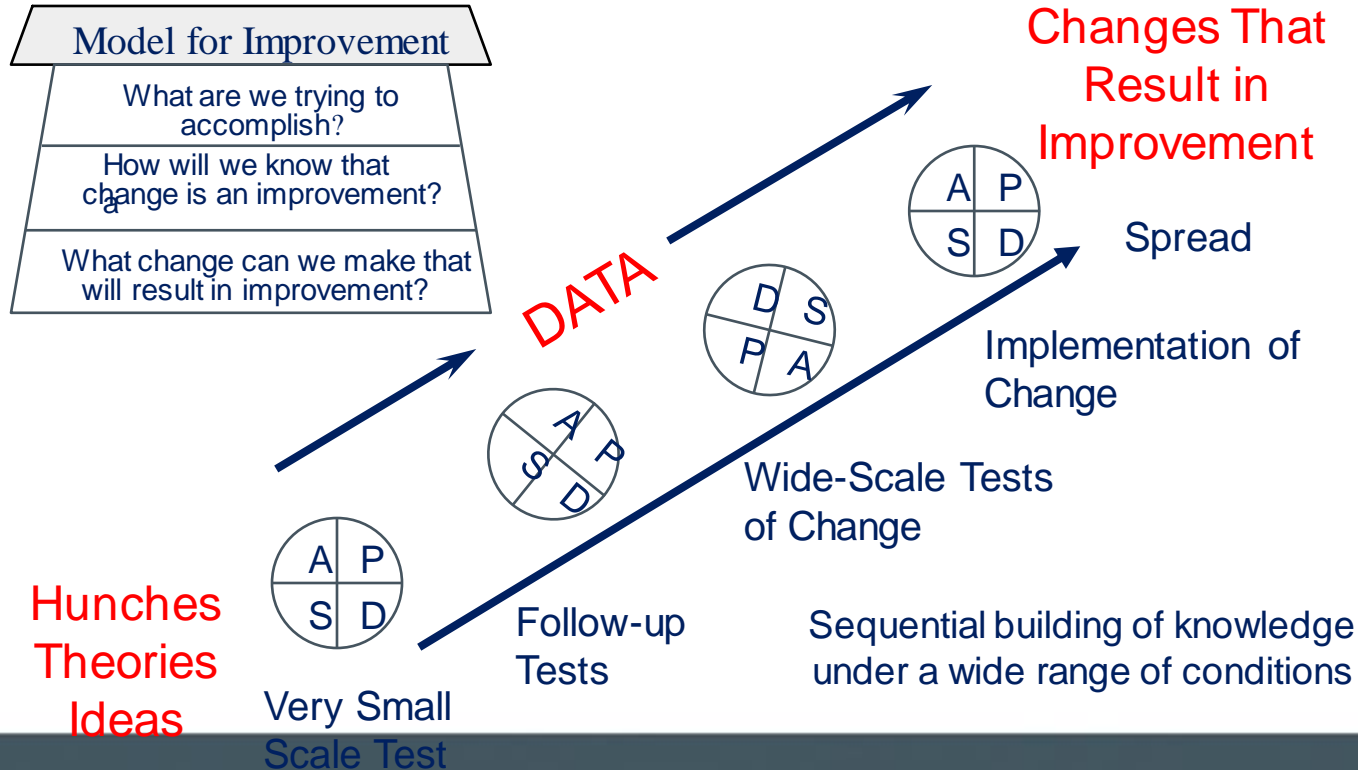
# Plan, Do, Study, Act Cycle



# The PDSA Cycle

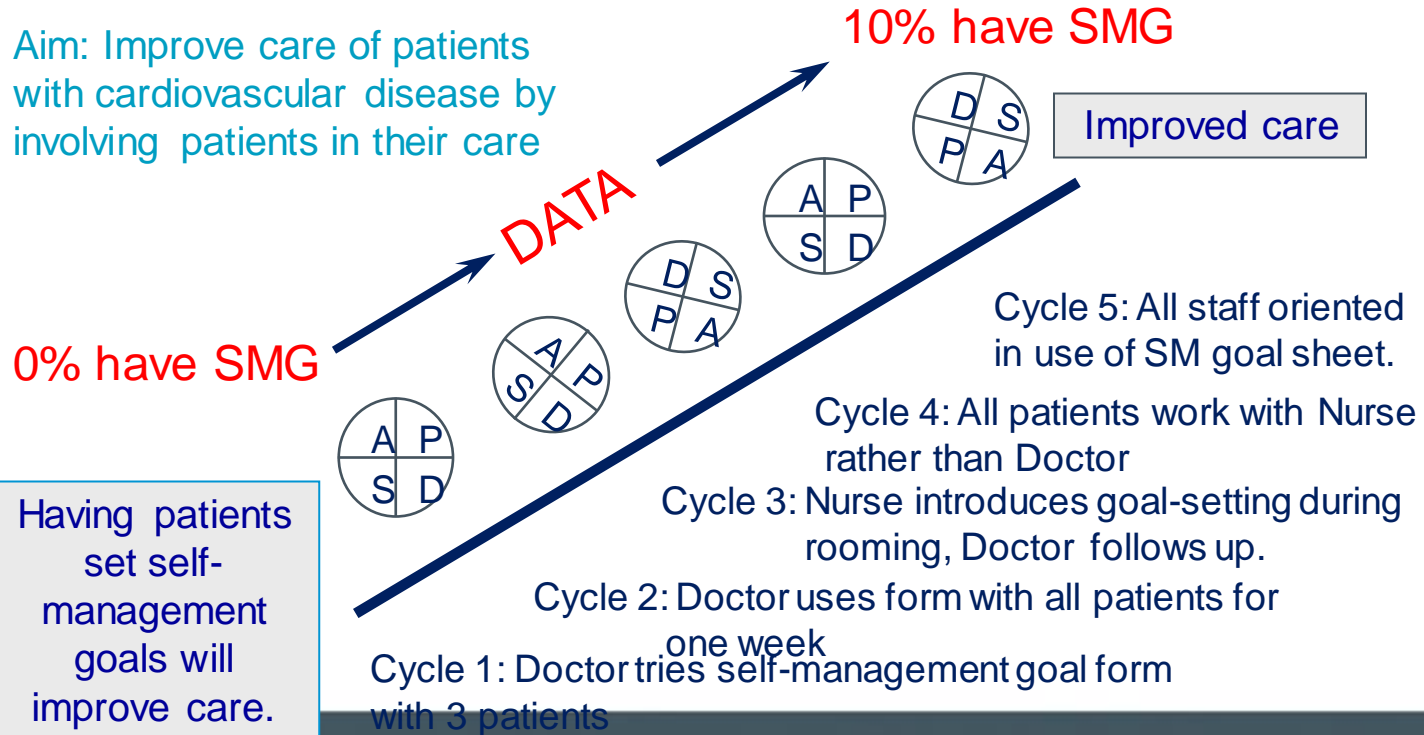


# Repeated Use of the PDSA Cycle



# Multiple Cycles of PDSAs (an example)

Aim: Improve care of patients with cardiovascular disease by involving patients in their care

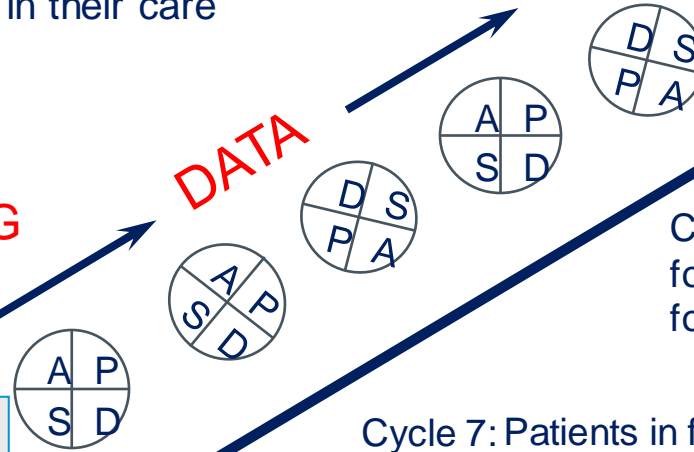


# Multiple Cycles of PDSAs (continued)

Aim: Improve care of patients with cardiovascular disease by involving patients in their care

10% have SMG

Using outreach will increase the patients who have opportunities to set goals.



70% have SMG

Improved care

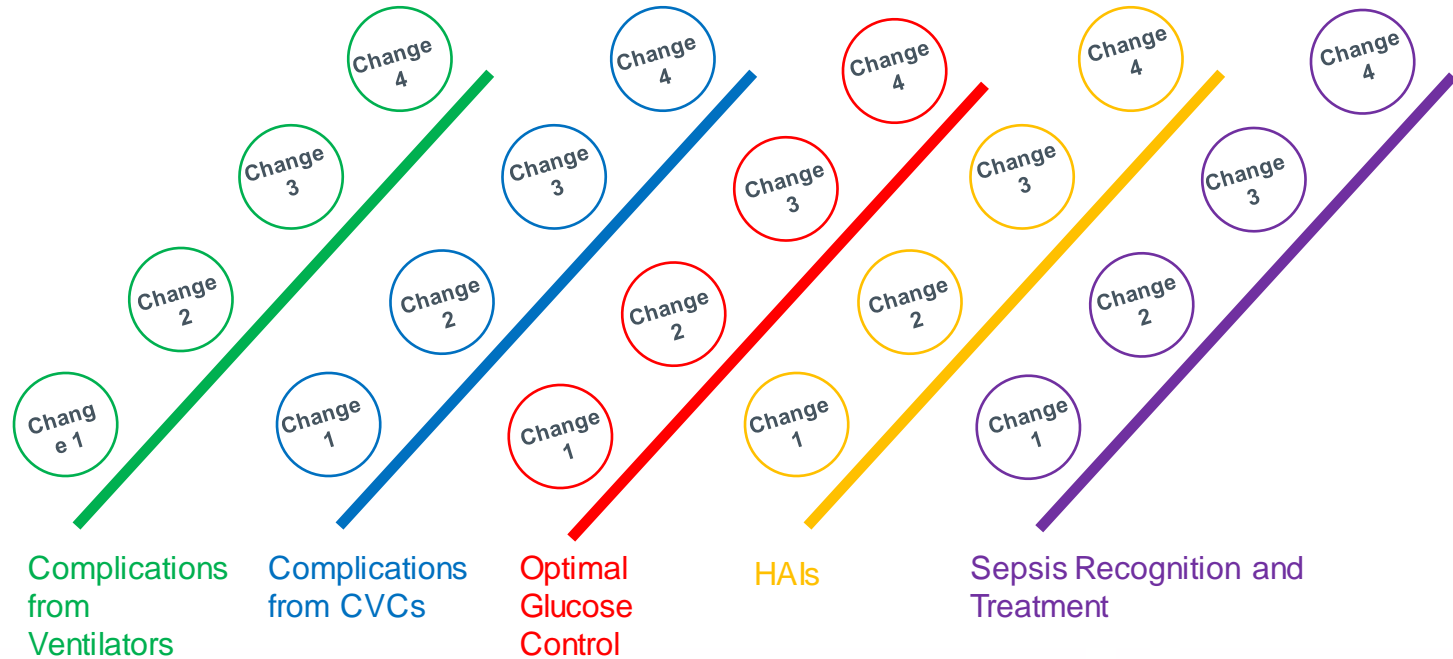
Cycle 8: Doctor does follow-up of SMG as found in chart

Cycle 7: Patients in for lipid tests given SM goal sheet by Nurse

Cycle 6: Using registry, query patients without lipid test, call in proactively for free lab work.

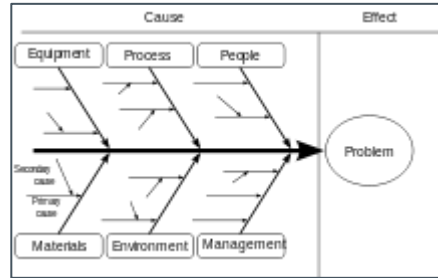
Aim: Provide appropriate, reliable and timely care to critically ill patients using evidence-based therapies in Hospital X, Pilot Site Y, by August 2008

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# Basic Improvement Tools

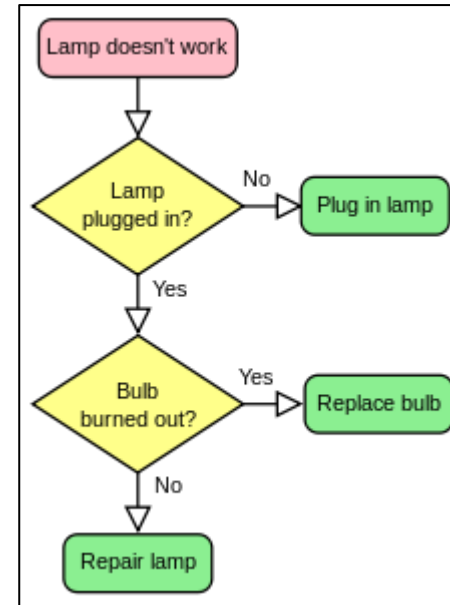
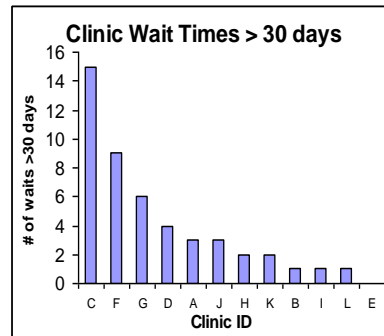
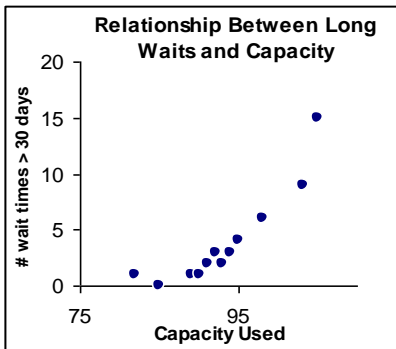
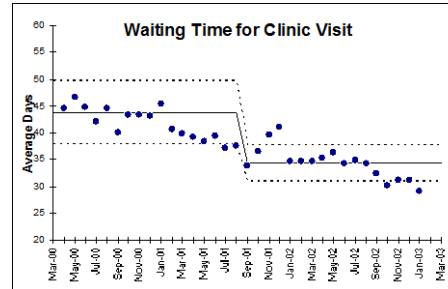
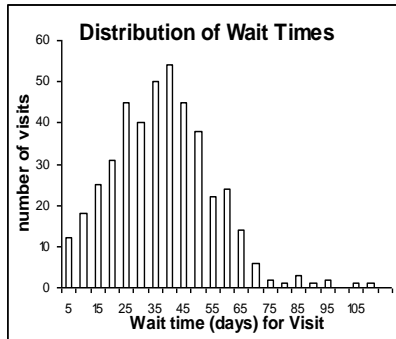
# 7 Basic Quality Tools



Motor Assembly Check Sheet

Name of Data Recorder: Leslie A. Bane  
 Location: Rockledge, New York  
 Date Collection Dates: 10/7, 10/8

Defect Category	Days							TOTAL
	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
Supplied parts, sorted								20
Misaligned and								6
Improper test procedure								0
Wrong part issued								3
File on parts								0
Tools in working								6
Incorrect dimensions								2
Defective fixture								0
Missing instructions								1
Spent before								5
TOTAL		10	10	10	10	4		54





# Tools for Today

- Process Mapping
- Check Sheets
- Pareto Charts
- Data over time
- PDCA Cycles

# 5 Year Old Improvers

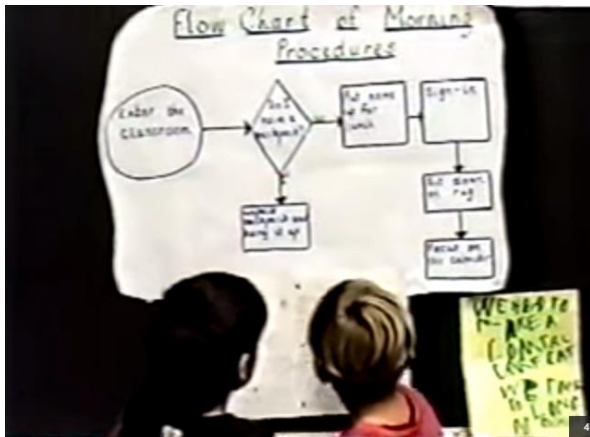


<http://youtu.be/iWYIWE7SKcM>

# What were they trying to accomplish?

- **Aim:** Improve classroom management by 31 October by:
  - 95% of children will remove backpack when entering the room
  - 95% of children will sign in
  - Time from door opened to children sitting on the rug and focused on the calendar will be 5 minutes or less 95% of the time
  - Reduce clean up time to an average of 5 min or less

# Flowchart



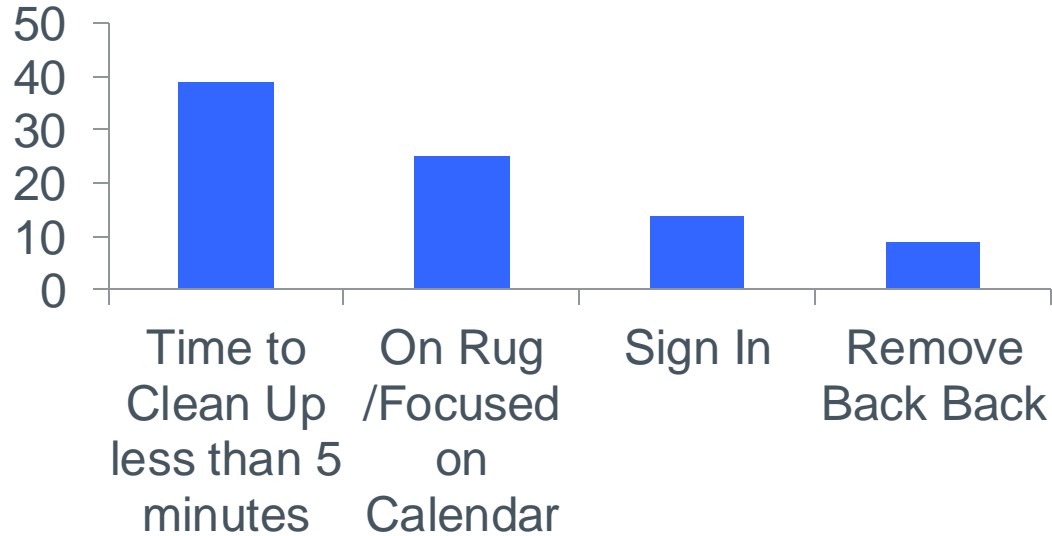
# Check Sheet

Activities	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remove Back Back	III	II	I	I	II
Sign In	II	III	III	IIII	II
On Rug /Focused on Calendar	IIII	IIII II	IIII I	III	IIII
Time to Clean Up less than 5 minutes	IIII IIII	IIII III	IIII	IIII II	IIII IIII

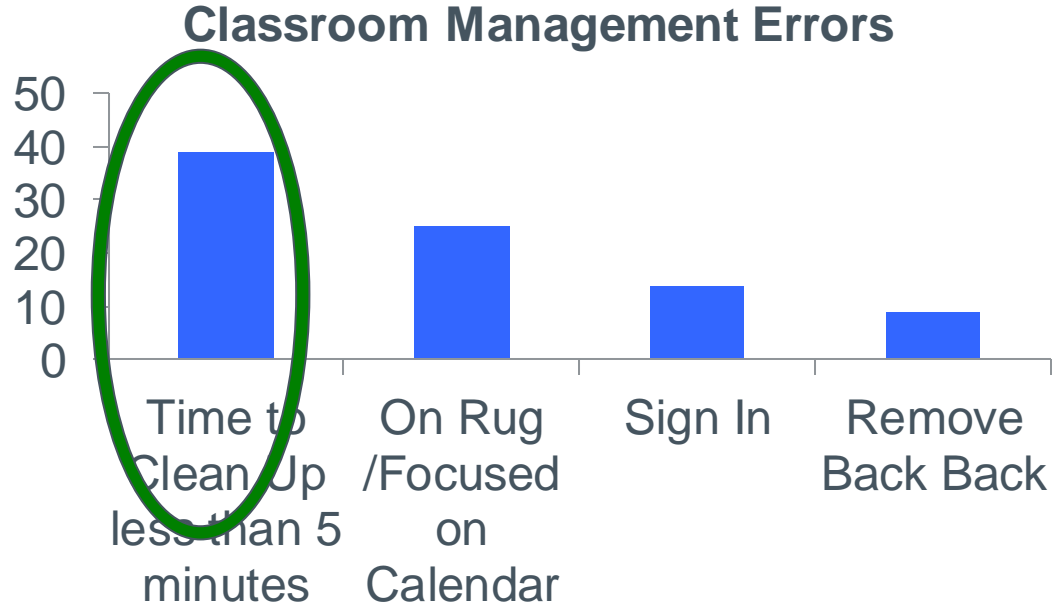
N= 20 kids

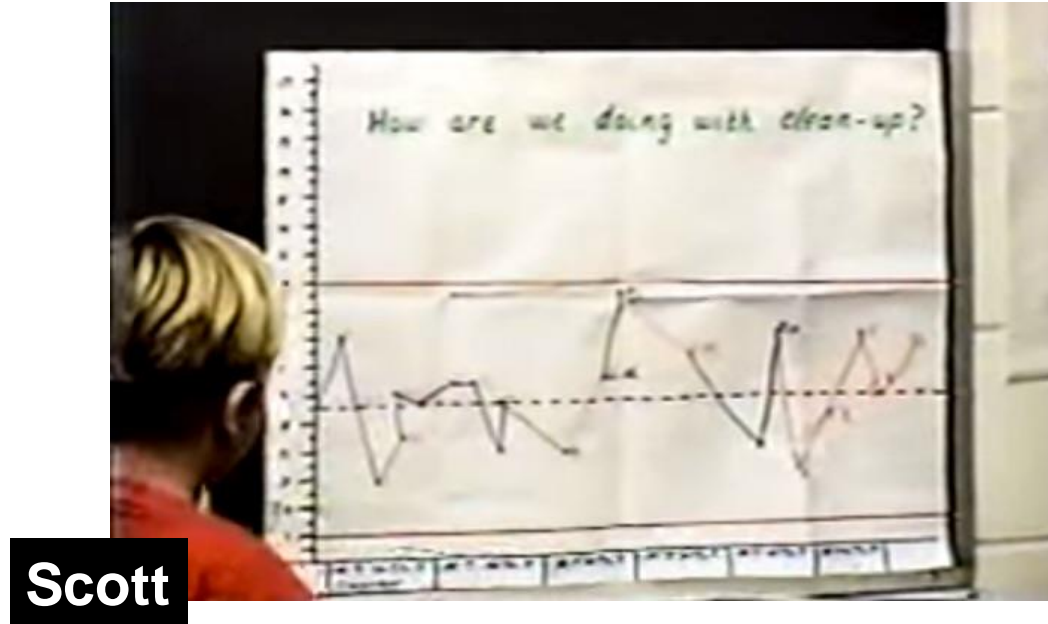
# Pareto Chart

## Classroom Management Errors



# Pareto Chart

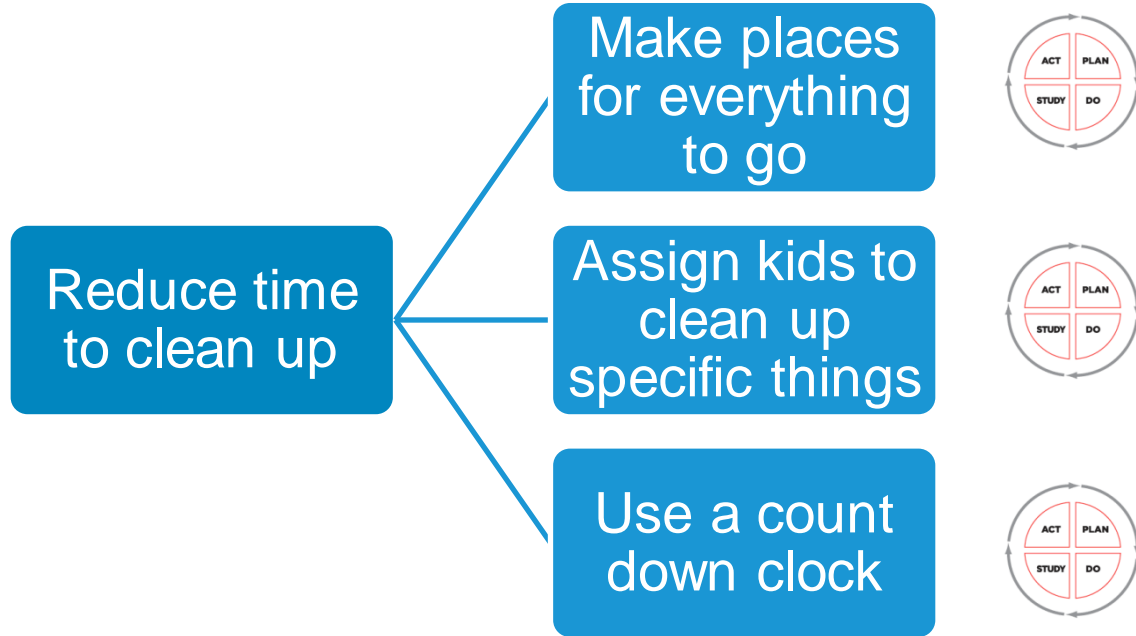




**Measures – How will we know a change is an improvement?**

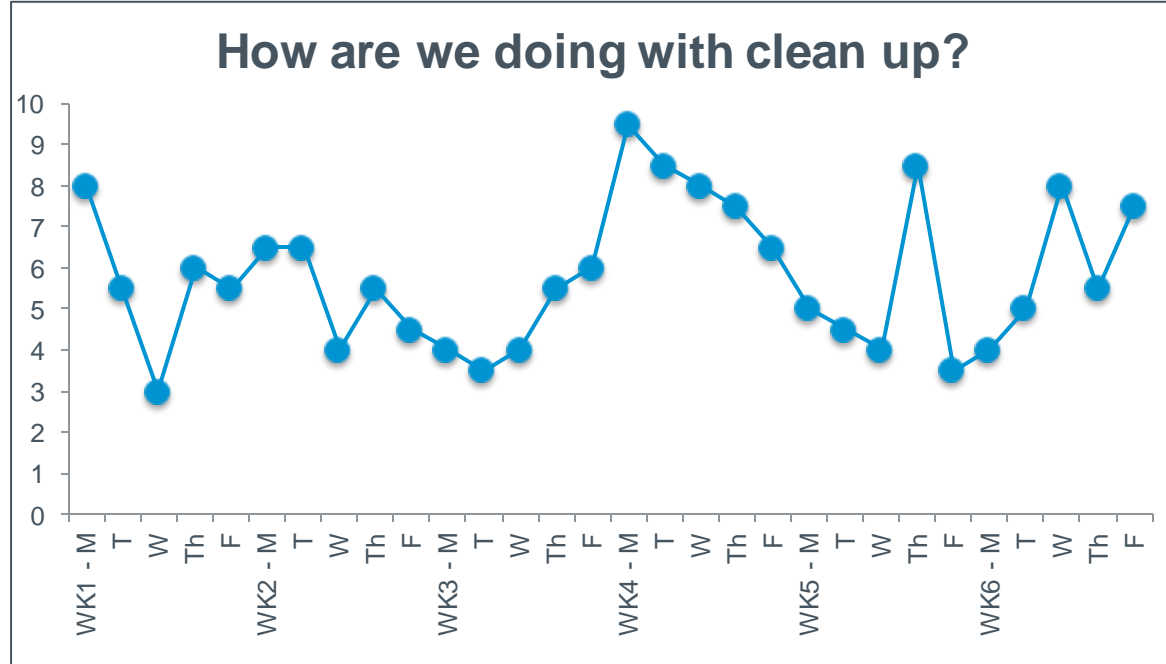


# Change Ideas: What changes can I make that will result in improvement?



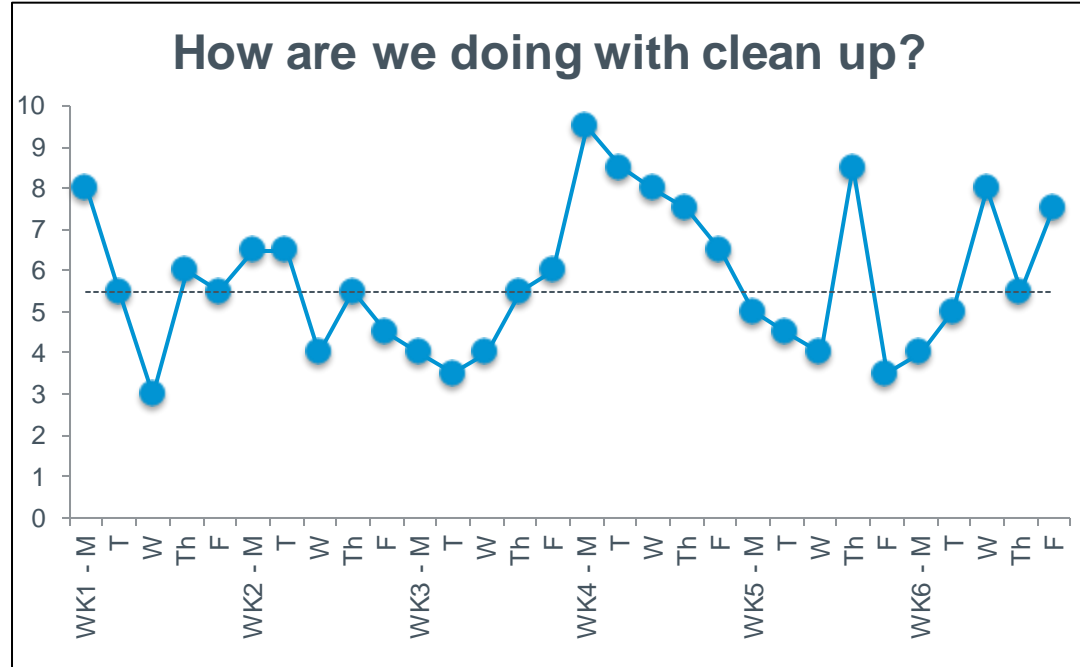
Days	Minutes
WK1 - M	8
T	5.5
W	3
Th	6
F	5.5
WK2 - M	6.5
T	6.5
W	4
Th	5.5
F	4.5
WK3 - M	4
T	3.5
W	4
Th	5.5
F	6
WK4 - M	9.5
T	8.5
W	8
Th	7.5
F	6.5
WK5 - M	5
T	4.5
W	4
Th	8.5
F	3.5
WK6 - M	4
T	5
W	8
Th	5.5
F	7.5

# Line Chart



Days	Minutes	Median
WK1 - M	8	5.5
T	5.5	5.5
W	3	5.5
Th	6	5.5
F	5.5	5.5
WK2 - M	6.5	5.5
T	6.5	5.5
W	4	5.5
Th	5.5	5.5
F	4.5	5.5
WK3 - M	4	5.5
T	3.5	5.5
W	4	5.5
Th	5.5	5.5
F	6	5.5
WK4 - M	9.5	5.5
T	8.5	5.5
W	8	5.5
Th	7.5	5.5
F	6.5	5.5
WK5 - M	5	5.5
T	4.5	5.5
W	4	5.5
Th	8.5	5.5
F	3.5	5.5
WK6 - M	4	5.5
T	5	5.5
W	8	5.5
Th	5.5	5.5
F	7.5	5.5

# Run Chart



# Using Run Charts for Quality Improvement

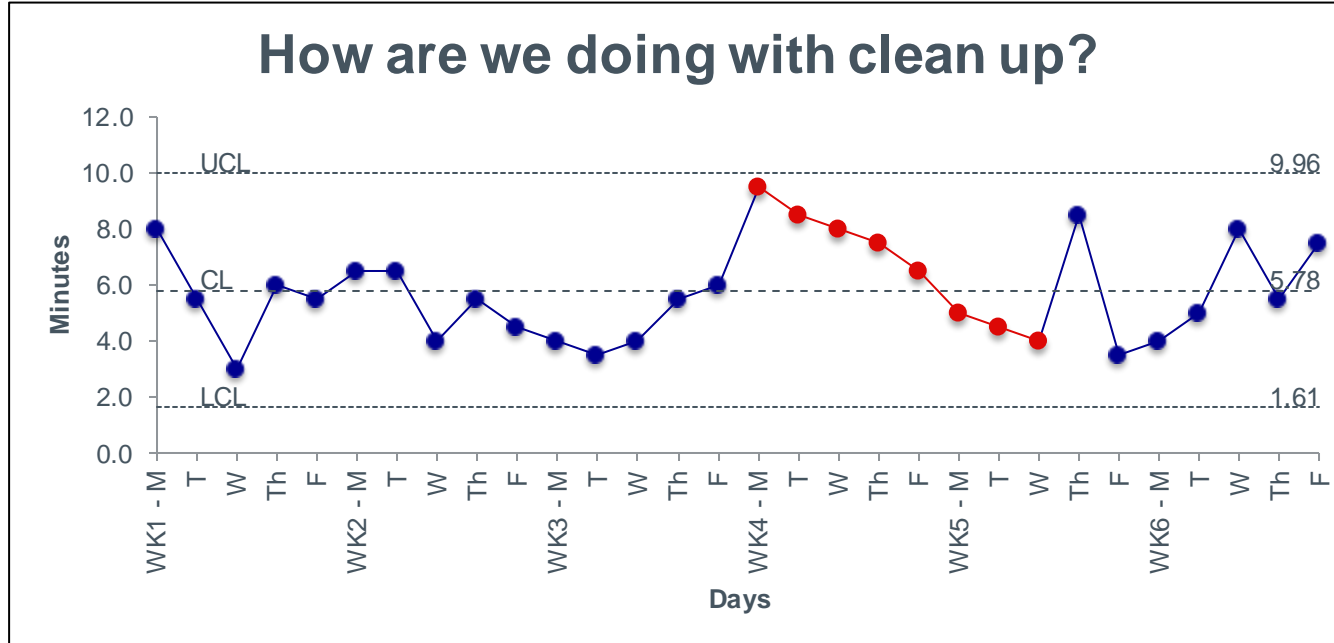
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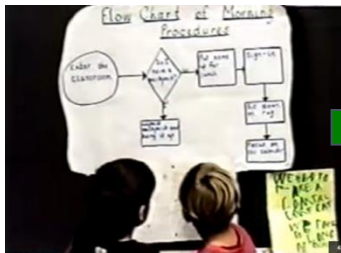
*Run charts are used in QI to:*

- Identify and assess problems
- Make informed decisions
- Show if a change resulted in improvement and by how much
- Monitor processes over time to see if improvements are maintained
- Communicate the effects of improvement work to others

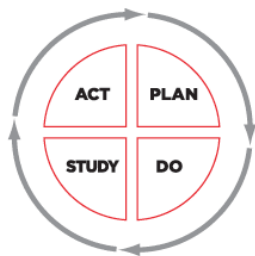
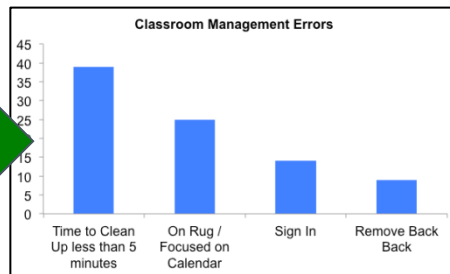
Data are collected and analyzed at regular time intervals (as opposed to pre/post intervention data)

# Shewhart Statistical Process Control Chart





Activities	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Remove Back Back	III	II	I	I	II
Sign In	II	III	III	III	II
On Rug / Focused on Calendar	IIII	IIII II	IIII I	III	IIII
Time to Clean Up less than 5 minutes	IIII IIII	IIII III	IIII	IIII II	IIII IIII

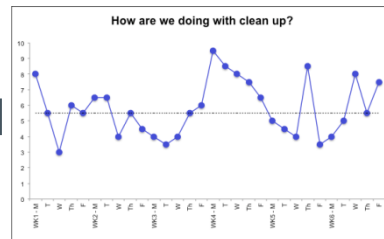


Reduce time to clean up

Make places for everything to go

Assign kids to clean up specific things

Use a count down clock



# Scientific Method

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- The scientific method is a way to ask and answer scientific questions by making observations and doing experiments.
- The steps of the scientific method are to:
  - **Ask a Question**
  - **Do Background Research**
  - **Construct a Hypothesis**
  - **Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment**
  - **Analyze Your Data and Draw a Conclusion**
  - **Communicate Your Results**



# Scientific Method (continued)

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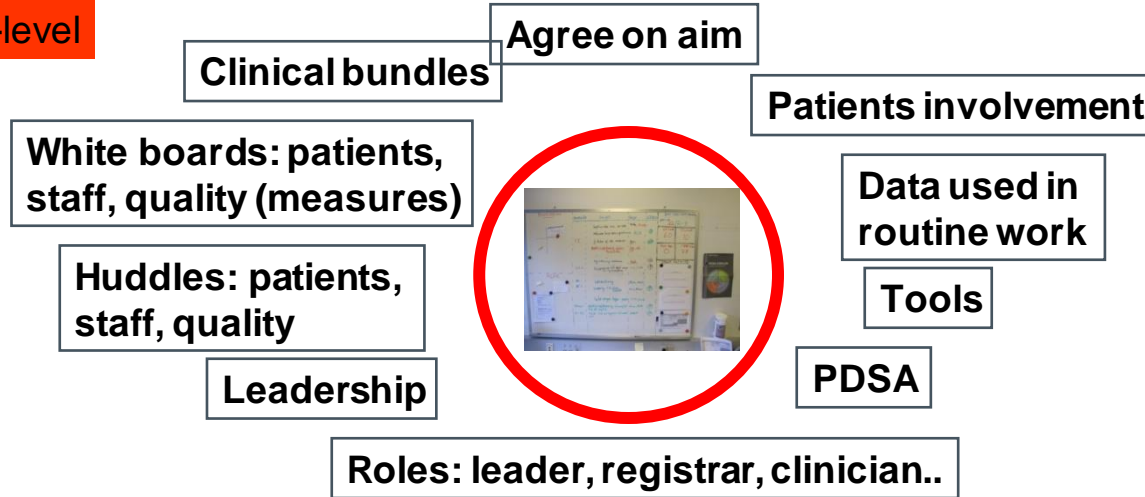
- It is important for your experiment to be a fair test. A "fair test" occurs when you change only **one** factor (variable) and keep all other conditions the same.
- While scientists study how nature works, engineers create new things, such as products, websites, environments, and experiences.



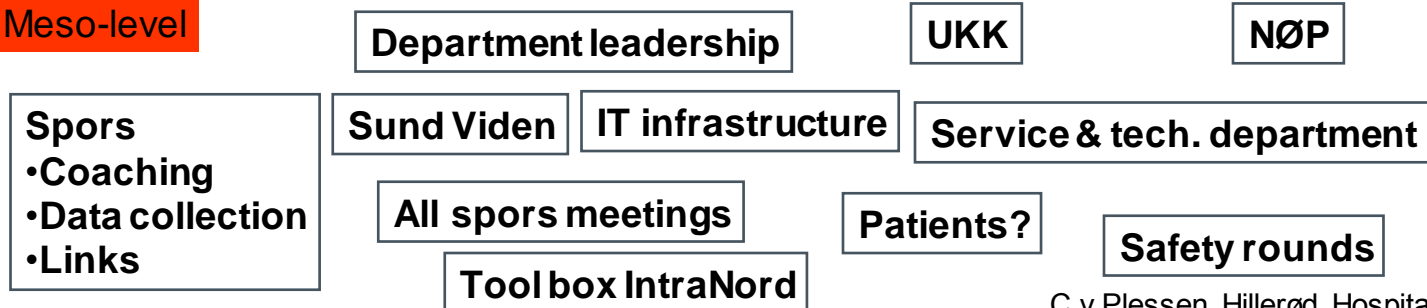


# Spreadable elements

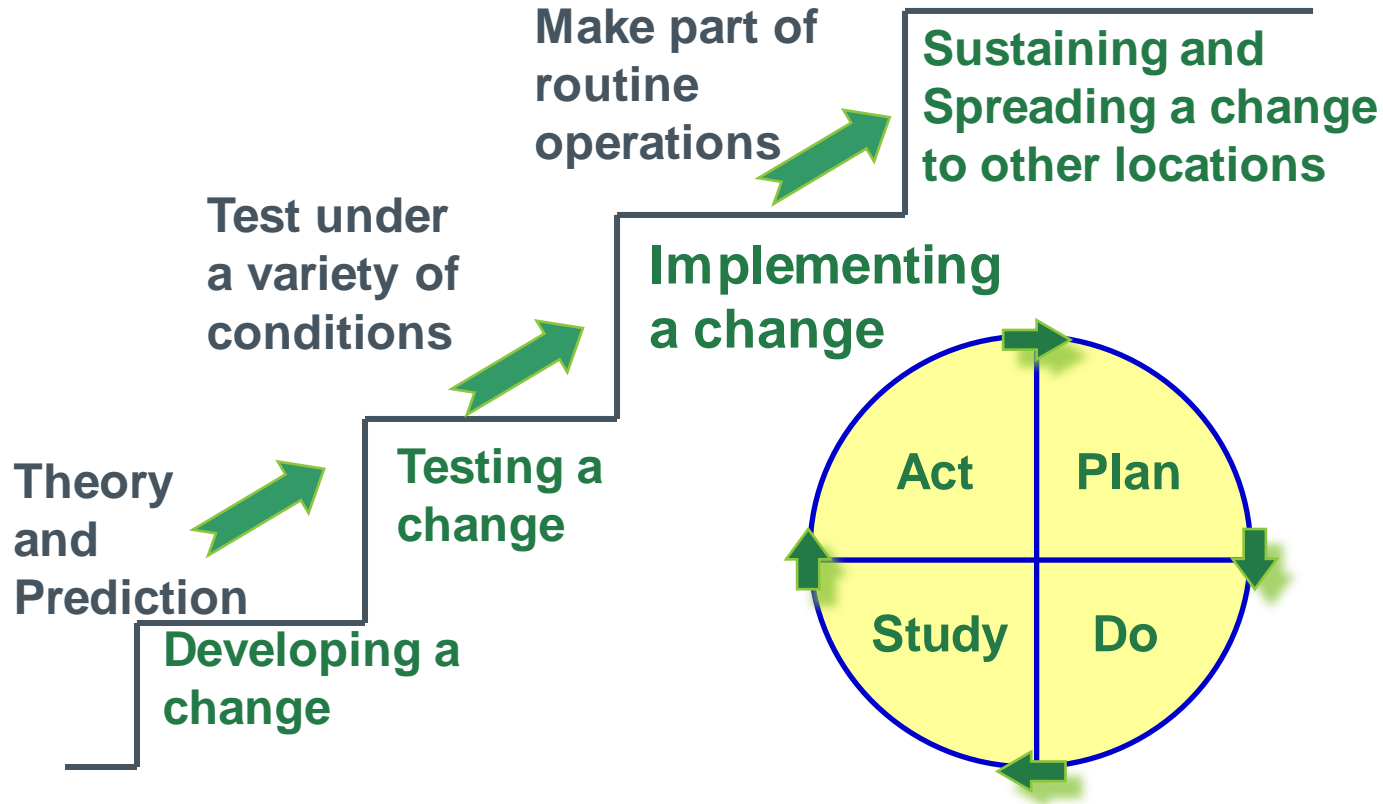
## Micro-level



## Meso-level



# The Sequence for Improvement



# What Leaders Should Expect of Teams to Reliably Achieve the Safety Goals

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- Expect the initial focus of work should be on “getting the process right” with a known connection to an outcome
- Expect the team to take a set of processes to an agreed upon level of reliability within a specified timeline
- Expect the teams to use good design principles in improvement work, not just hard work and vigilance
- Expect teams to develop good designs by using rapid cycle small tests of change
- Expect adequate process structure to sustain the work



# What we accomplished

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- Described improvement science and its application in healthcare.
- Illustrated the three key questions of the Model for Improvement by describing an effort in your organization.
- Described the sequence of improvement and the key tools and methods that can be applied during the QI journey.
- Discussed the scientific method and its comparison to the PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) cycle



# Questions?

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Thank you!

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