PDSA Overview

1) Plan
   a. Set Aim
      1. Which area will the practice focus on?
      2. What is the specific improvement goal?
   b. Develop sampling methodology for data collection
      1. Small number
      2. Assign staff and design methodology to fit within workflow
   c. Develop plan to test change
   d. Predict what will happen as a result of the test

2) Do
   a. Carry out test
   b. Set time frame: 1-2 weeks
   c. Identify patient population to test
   d. Document problems

3) Study
   a. Analyze data (follow up data collection on a small sample)
   b. How does data compare to your initial predictions?
   c. Have there been any improvements?

4) Act
   a. Based on analysis, what is the next step in the change cycle?
   b. Abandon, adopt, or change design

PDSA Tips
1. Be specific: Set a numerical goal and time frame
2. Be realistic: set a goal that is achievable
3. Use the Institute of Medicine dimensions of quality as a guide—care should be safe, effective, patient-centered, timely, efficient, and equitable
4. Use sampling methodology that fits into workflow—focus on small number of charts abstracted weekly
5. Integrate data collection with current work activities (e.g., refilling charts, rooming patients, calling for appointment reminders, etc.)
6. Use run charts to view data over time
7. Always test on a small scale
8. Start with easy changes
9. Learn from previous cycle
10. The end of your first cycle should like directly to the beginning of your next cycle