

PDSA Look-For's

Quality Criteria	Details	PDSA sample	Common Challenges
	For each criteria	Yes/No comments	
Articulation of a clear hypothesis (PLAN)			
The goal of the test is clear			<input type="checkbox"/> Change idea is not based on best evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Change idea is not clearly specified <input type="checkbox"/> Limited or vague predictions <input type="checkbox"/> PDSA is the wrong tool to address the learning question
Change idea based on “best practices”			
Change idea specified and developed?			
Clear predictions?	y/n avoided when possible		
Design of the experiment (PLAN)			
Data collection plan? Data needed, articulated, or specified?	Related to their predictions		<input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty in identifying opportunities to learn <input type="checkbox"/> Can't identify useful data <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to plan for the logistical plans of conducting the test <input type="checkbox"/> Do not create a data collection sheet
Scale of the test appropriate? Found a good opportunity to learn about the change?			
Documentation of learning (DO-STUDY)			
Carry out the plan?			<input type="checkbox"/> Report “doing” but no documentation <input type="checkbox"/> Fail to see the learning in the surprises
Record any notes and surprises that happened during the test?			
Did they compare what happened with their predictions?			
Use learning to revise/bolster initial hypothesis (STUDY/ACT)			
New learning or theory refinement?	Explicit reference in act or study section		<input type="checkbox"/> Failure to disconfirm beliefs despite evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Difficulty of abstracting from what happened in the test and the initial hypothesis. <input type="checkbox"/> Plan for future tests that don't build on each other <input type="checkbox"/> Hesitancy to scale up the test when it is appropriate
Suggested next steps?			
	Score = x/10 Yes = 1 No = 0		

Other common misconceptions in overall testing strategy

Not strategic in testing

- test everything
- confusion between tasks and tests
- continue to tweak when its time to move on
- inappropriate or inefficient testing strategy for the problem at hand (overreliance on small scale testing)

Don't build on learning

- learning doesn't travel from site to site
- lack of searching for change ideas (only using knowledge at the table)
- PDSAs don't build on each other

PDSAs used in isolation

- not paired with data
- lack of or weak theory to guide testing
- do not get in a routine for learning

Social settings don't support collective sense making

- no setting to collectively make sense with peers
- mechanistic inquiry (done as a result of a mandate, not a genuine question)
- proving stance, happy talk (failing to uncover limitations in practice)