

Professional Development Series: Plan – Do – Study – Act July 10, 2009

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From the ACGME Glossary

- PDSA (Plan – Do – Study – Act)

A four part method for discovering and correcting assignable causes to improve the quality of processes; the method may be applied to individual learning, courses, programs, institutions, and systems, in repeated cycles.



Improvement Model

- What are we trying to accomplish?
 - Is there an administrative process which you perform in relationship to your position as program coordinator which could be improved?



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Plan

- State the opportunity for improvement
 - Delineate several possible means to address the process for improvement.
 - Write out a **Plan** to address the opportunity for improvement
 - Discuss the initiative with the appropriate department personnel, PD, Dept. Chair, Dept. Administrator to evaluate feasibility and solicit approval to proceed.



Do

- Implement the changes and maintain frequent communications with appropriate department personnel.



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Study

- Evaluate what works, and what doesn't.
- Record observations for evaluation purposes.
- How will we know that change is an improvement?
 - Review data which you have recorded over the weeks of implementation.
 - For changes which were not so successful, identify methods of change to correct those actions.
 - Create **Plan** to re-attack those areas which need modification.



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Act

- Make the changes which will result in improvement.
 - Regroup, start again to take action on those items which were identified as needing modification for success.



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PDSA

- The Plan – Do - Study - Act cycle is an ongoing process which may be repeated many times.
- The Plan – Do - Study - Act cycle is one component of the ACGME Project for Fostering and Assessing Practice-based Learning and Improvement in resident training.

