Infection Prevention News You Can Use

Quality Improvement and Infection Prevention

Quality improvement methodologies are used in healthcare to improve overall patient care and outcomes. A quality improvement approach seeks to standardize processes, allowing for the methodical integration of changes to improve patient outcomes. Integrating infection prevention practices into your hospital's Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) work is essential for improving patient outcomes.

The National Association for Healthcare Quality (NAHQ) is offering complementary webinars and resources to all healthcare providers during National Healthcare Quality Week (October 19—25). Be sure to take a look!

Model for Improvement

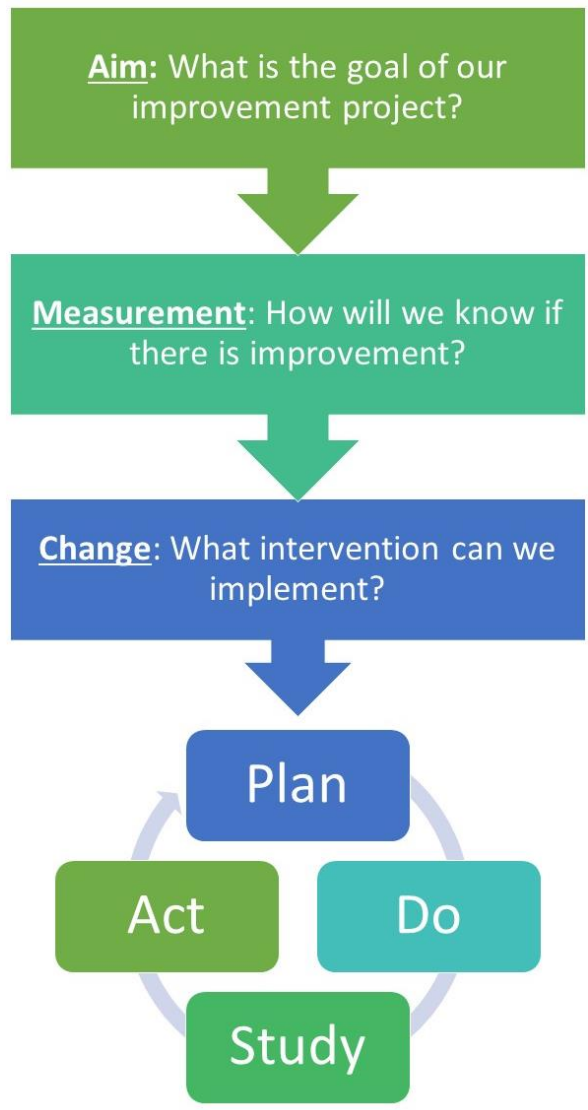
The Institute for Healthcare Improvement's (IHI) Model for Improvement (MFI) is a framework used to guide improvement and provide feedback on your efforts, which can then be integrated into your hospital's infection prevention program. The MFI is split into two phases; the first phase involves outlining your improvement project, and the second phase focuses on testing the intervention. The different elements of the MFI are outlined below:

1) Setting Aims: The first step towards improvement requires setting a clear and firm aim. The aim statement describes the improvement being made and identifies what you're trying to accomplish. The aim should be time-specific, measurable, and define the specific population that will be targeted.

2) Establishing Measures: Measurement is a critical piece of our quality improvement work because it tells us whether the changes we are making are leading to improvement. The key is to select the right measures to help the improvement team track and understand results quickly, so they can adapt their interventions as needed.

3) Selecting Changes: Not all changes lead to improvement, but all improvement requires some type of change. There are many kinds of changes you can implement in your organization that will lead to improvement.

4) Testing and Implementing Changes: The next step is to test a change in real-time. The Plan-Do-Study-Act (PDSA) cycle is shorthand for testing a change — plan it, try it, observe the results, and act on what is learned. This is the scientific method used for action-oriented learning. After testing a change on a small scale, learning and refining through several PDSA cycles, the change is ready for implementation on a broader scale.



Upcoming Events

AHRQ Program for CAUTI Prevention

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is recruiting adult intensive care units (ICUs) and non-ICUs to participate in a free, nine-month program aimed at reducing catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) rates in acute care hospitals. *Click here* for more information about the program and to sign up for an upcoming informational webinars.

Champions of Change: Celebrating Stewardship Success

In recognition of U.S. Antibiotic Awareness Week (USAAW), observed from November 18 – 24, IHA will partner with the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) to celebrate antimicrobial achievements across Illinois.

Join us on **Tuesday, November 18 at 12:00pm** for a one-hour webinar that will provide updates around IDPH's Antimicrobial Stewardship Initiatives, recognize the 2025 Acute Care Antimicrobial Stewardship Honor Roll Awardees, and highlight recipients of the Collaboration Distinction Awards. Click here to register now!

Resources

1) Institute for Healthcare Improvement: https://www.ihi.org/library/model-for-improvement
2) National Association for Healthcare Quality Week: https://hqw.nahq.org/

MAPS Patient Safety Organization

IHA's Midwest Alliance for Patient Safety (MAPS) is leading efforts to prevent medical error through resource sharing, education and data collection/analysis. As a certified Patient Safety Organization (PSO) since 2010, MAPS provides full legal privileges, confidentiality and protections for reported patient events.

Click here to learn more about MAPS benefits and how to become a member today.