Plan a Test of Change

**Plan** Describe the proposed test. What performance gap will it address? What idea will you test? What barriers will you need to overcome? What do you predict will happen?

**Do** Try your change with a few patients over a short period of time. Collect data that can be measured. Describe what happened when you ran the test.

**Study** Describe how the results from the data collected compare to the predicted outcome.

**Act** How will you modify the plan in the next test cycle based on “learnings” from this cycle? Or, describe a new idea to test to help you achieve your aim.

**AIM of this project** Describe the aim of this project. What are you trying to accomplish? Every aim will require multiple small tests of change.

Over the next 3 months, our practice will log the current, minimum and maximum temperatures, as recorded by our digital dataloggers (DDLs), every morning on days the clinic is open, (this is required by the Vaccines for Children [VFC] program and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC]).

While this is a requirement of the VFC program, it is also important for delivering the best patient care. When vaccines are exposed to temperatures outside of the recommended range, they can lose potency. If impotent vaccines are given to children, they may not confer protection, but since the children have received the vaccine, parents and doctors don’t know that children are left vulnerable. Proper vaccine storage can prevent vaccines from losing potency, and proper vaccine monitoring helps identify vaccines that may have been destroyed.

**Plan**

Describe the proposed test. What performance gap will it address? What idea will you test? What barriers will you need to overcome? What do you predict will happen?

**Performance Gap**

Our practice was recently audited, and the VFC coordinator pointed out that we had not been recording the current, minimum and maximum temperatures each day, since we installed our new DDLs.

We came close to meeting our goal in the first cycle, but are adding a member to the team to help fill in some of the gap.

**Idea for Test:**

Our trial for test will be to have Carla check the DDLs and record readings into the logs on days that Abby is not in office (or is late). Abby will continue to do this on days that she is in the office by 8am.

**Barriers:**

- If Abby is running late or calls in sick, Carla may not realize she’s out.
- Since Carla works on Saturdays she is off on Tuesdays. While infrequent, this could create a vacancy if Abby takes a week off, or calls out sick on a Tuesday.
Plan continued from page 1

Measures

What is the desired goal that will close the performance gap?
*Describe the specific measures that will determine a successful outcome for the test.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Baseline Number</th>
<th>Cycle 1</th>
<th>Goal Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinic dates with a current, minimum and maximum temperature recorded in both the paper and electronic log.</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of clinic days with a current, minimum and maximum temperature recorded in both the paper and electronic log.</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tasks and Tools

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>People</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
<th>Tools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abby</td>
<td>Continue reading and recording DDLs data.</td>
<td>DDLs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Vaccine temperature logs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carla</td>
<td>Read and record DDLs data on days Abby is out of the office or late.</td>
<td>DDL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Review storage unit temperature readings and review continuous DDL software or website information for changes in temperature trends that might require action (adjusting unit temperature or repairing/replacing storage or temperature monitoring equipment).</td>
<td>Vaccine temperature logs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>An updated schedule to check whether Abby is out of the office</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Magnets or sign that indicate whether the temperature log has been checked or updated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The knowledge that Abby is out of the office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr B</td>
<td>Review both temperature logs at the end of each week.</td>
<td>Temperature log book and laptop or tablet to access the electronic log</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Predicted outcome:
We are optimistic that we will reach our goal this cycle! With Carla as Abby’s back up, we should be able to do it.

Do

Make a change! *Try your change with a few patients over a short period of time.* *Collect data that can be measured. Describe what happened when you ran the test.*

Abby continued to check and record readings from the DDLs each morning. The clinic was especially busy on Saturday morning and Carla forgot to do her reading.
Study

Did the change lead to the desire improvement? Describe how the measured results compare to the predicted outcome.

- This process is now a habit for Abby. She has the flow of it.
- The clinic was especially busy, even for a Saturday, and Carla missed some of her startup routine; this was forgotten.

Act

Describe how you will modify the plan. In the next test cycle based on “learnings” from this cycle. Or, describe a new idea to test to help you achieve your aim.

- Train: The QI Team will give a presentation at the next practice meeting. Agenda items will include:
  - What is VFC and why do we participate?
  - Why does vaccine storage and monitoring matter?
  - What are VFC storage and monitoring requirements?
- Consider: We may want to find a way to make this process a broader responsibility for the clinic (like the first person who goes to administer a vaccine make sure this is done), but now it’s working well to have a main person be responsible.
- Follow-up: We will continue a 3rd and 4th cycle and increase our goal to everyday, 100%!

End of Cycle 2