

# Setting the Stage



## Developing a Project Aim

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How do you we pick a topic?

What can we do better?



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- **Is there a process that could be more efficient?**



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- **Is there a way to deliver care more safely?**

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- Is there a process that could be more efficient?
- Is there a way to deliver care more safely?
- Is there a way to reduce excess steps in a process?
- **Is there something we can modify that would make patients, their families or staff happier?**

# How do you we pick a topic?



What can we do better?

- Is there a process that could be more efficient?
- Is there a way to deliver care more safely?
- Is there a way to reduce excess steps in a process?
- Is there something we can modify that would make patients, their families or staff happier?
- **Is there an opportunity to improve patient outcomes?**

# How do you we pick a topic?

Safety

Patient Centered

Efficiency

Effectiveness

Equity

Timeliness

IOM Framework

*2001, Crossing the Quality Chasm:  
A New Health System for the 21<sup>st</sup>  
Century:*

*6 overarching "Aims for  
Improvement in Health Care"*



# How do you we pick a topic?

- Internally – from drivers within your unit
  - Individual cases
  - Event reporting
- Externally – from comparing your performance with other centers
  - “30,000 foot” view
  - Use of comparative data, benchmarking, can risk adjust
    - VON, CHNC, NICHD NRN, MEDNAX database

Safety

Patient  
Centered

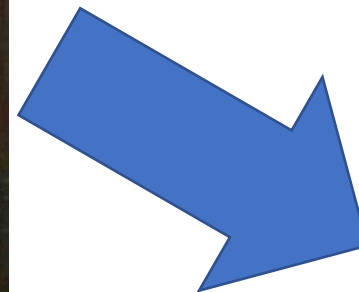
Efficiency

Effectiveness

Equity

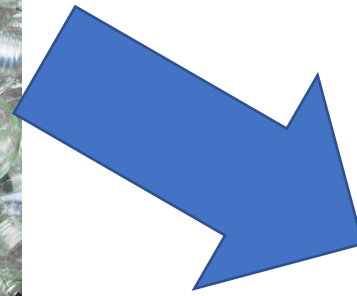
Timeliness

Now I have a list of problems, how do I narrow it down?



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Now I have a list of problems, how do I narrow it down?



# Narrow the focus

- Review current practice, evidence-based data and perform practice comparison with centers that have
- “Good” problems can be common, modifiable, have readily available benchmarks, and are important to the team
- Joint Commission “FINER framework” can help narrow focus:
  - Feasible
  - Interesting
  - Novel
  - Ethical
  - Relevant



# Example

- When examining your center's Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) rate compared to the VON network, you note your rate is significantly higher than the national benchmark.
- The team performs practice comparison with centers with low rates of NEC and notes that one difference is that those centers use donor milk in LBW infants when mother's milk is unavailable.
- The team then narrows their focus to increase the use of human milk in LBW infants by starting a donor milk program and test its affect over time



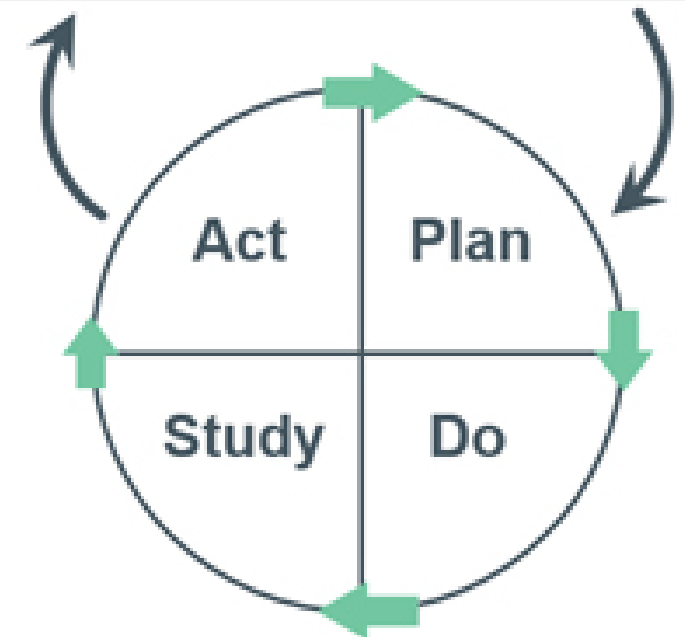
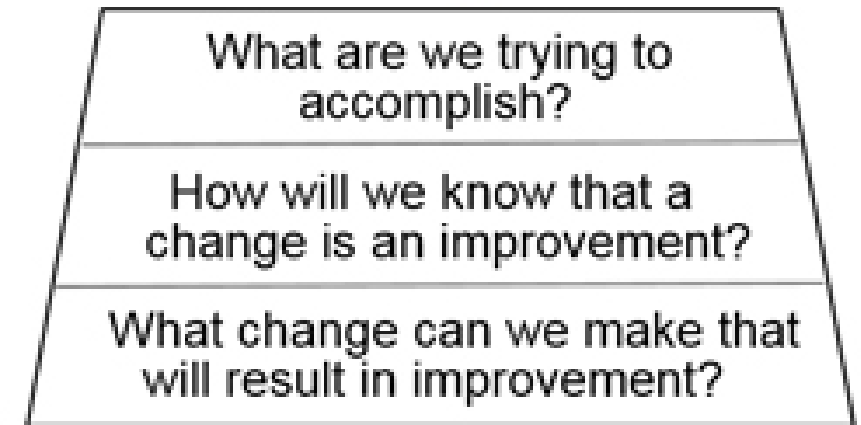
# What are we trying to accomplish?

Develop a SMART aim

The key tool to clearly define your mission

- S
- M
- A
- R
- T

## Model for Improvement



# Develop a SMART aim

- The key tool to clearly define your mission

- **SPECIFIC** 

Is the statement precise about what the team is trying to achieve?

- M

- A

- R

- T

# Develop a SMART aim

- The key tool to clearly define your mission



- **Specific**

- **MEASURABLE**



Are the outcomes measurable? Will you know if changes resulted in improvement?

- **A**

- **R**

- **T**



# Develop a SMART aim

- The key tool to clearly define your mission



- Specific



- Measurable

- ACHIEVABLE



Is this doable in the time you have? Are you attempting too much? Could you do more?

- R

- T

# Develop a SMART aim

- The key tool to clearly define your mission



- Specific

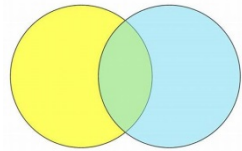


- Measurable



- Achievable

- REALISTIC



Do you have the resources needed?

- T

# Develop a SMART aim

- The key tool to clearly define your mission



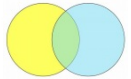
• Specific



• Measurable



• Achievable



• Realistic

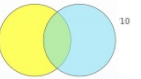
• TIMELY



Is the timeline identified?

# Why is a SMART Aim important?

- Clearly articulates the problem being address
  - so that, when resolved, will provide meaningful value to the patients and organization
  - Examination of current state can help define a starting point
- Provides a clear and specific goal for the team, succinct, specific
  - Nothing will improve without a clear intention to do so
  - precisely define your problem and your population
  - Includes measurement to see if change led to improvement
- Team agreement on the AIM is crucial
  - Can stimulate enthusiastic team support
  - Important to allocate people and resources necessary to accomplish the AIM



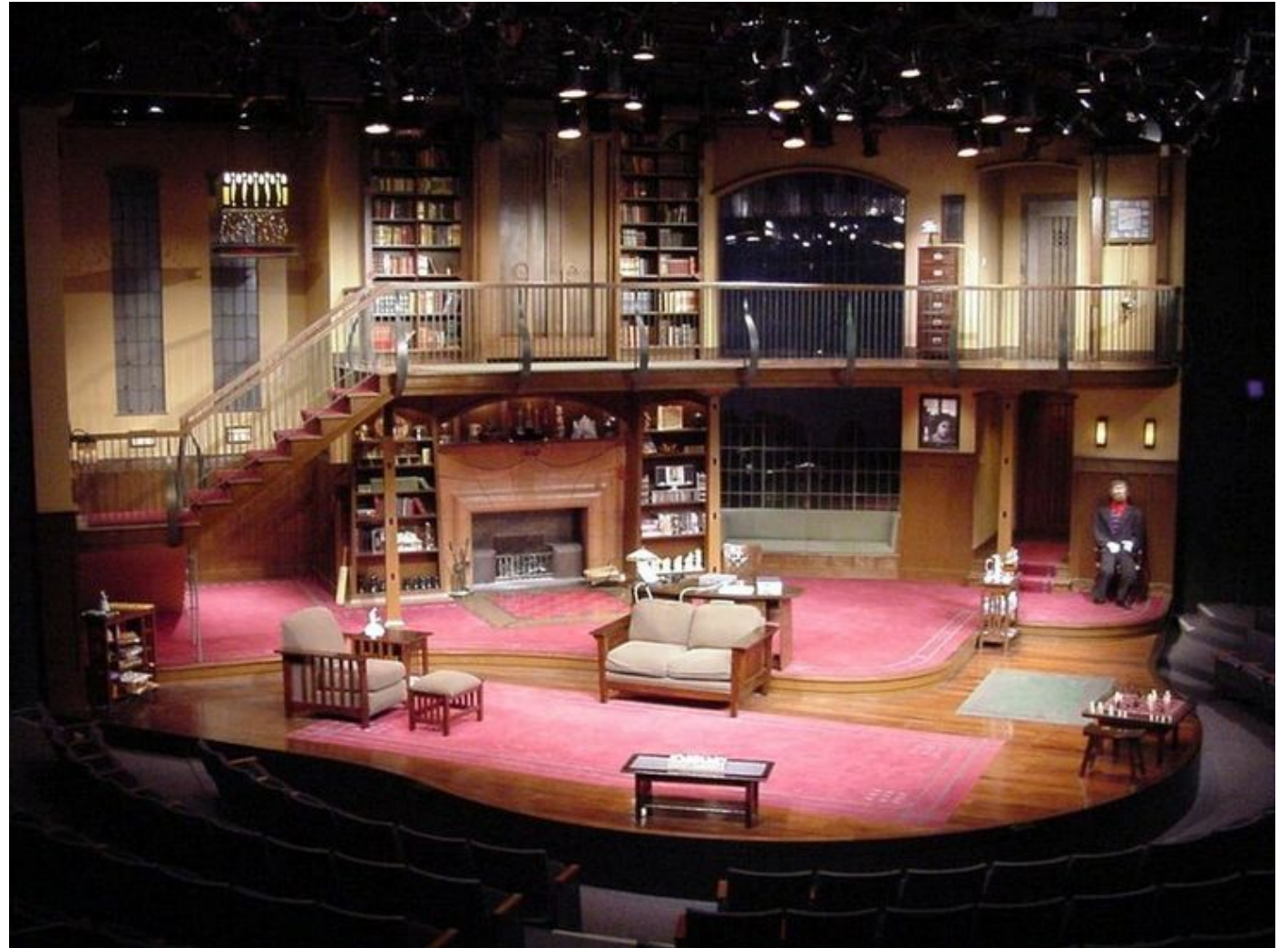
# *Example*

- A team noticed their NICU did not model compliant safe sleep practice in Level II babies nearing discharge to home.
- Initial Aim: To increase safe sleep practice in the NICU
- Not specific (who?, what?), measurable?, achievable?, realistic?, no time frame identified (over what time period?)
- SMART Aim: To increase rates of compliance with all elements of safe sleep in eligible level II NICU babies from a baseline of 50% to greater than 90% over a 12 month period



# The stage is set!

- Identify a general area to improve
- Narrow the focus
- Develop a SMART aim



# Table Top Exercises

- Part 1: Let's improve some AIM statements
  - Make them SMART!
- Part 2: Draft a SMART Aim for a potential future improvement project using the IHI Worksheet