



Problem Statement



ACTIVITY

Consider the following questions to support the development of a problem statement.

Why are you doing this improvement project?

Clarify your 'Why?' As a team, consider and document why you are doing this improvement?

What is the problem?

Who is it affecting?

How does it affect the:

- Patient, family and carers
- Provider or care team
- Primary health service provider?

When is it a problem?

How big a problem is it?

Why is it important?

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What kind of data (quantitative or qualitative) do you have or need to demonstrate it is a problem?

(e.g., What is the care gap? current practice vs. evidence-based practice or standard of care?)

What does the data tell you about your problem?

(e.g., What insights does it provide? Does it confirm your problem and valid the need for improvement?)

What would fixing the problem solve?

(e.g., How does it impact the practice, patient care, practice staff? Are there potential economic or efficiency gains to be made such as cost savings or more effective use of current resources?)

Our problem statement:

After considering each of the above, document your problem in the text box below:

Top tip

A good problem statement will:

- Focus on one problem only
- Not offer solutions but represents a solvable problem
- Be clear and concise (1 to 2 sentences)
- Exclude assumptions
- May be converted into a SMART people-driven goal statement