

Quality Improvement for NHS Board Members, Second National Masterclass, 21 February 2017

Top 10 Tips for Data

1. What is the purpose of the data? Accountability, Improvement or Research?
2. Be mindful of the unintended consequences especially Arbitrary Numerical Targets, they can drive the wrong behaviour
3. Plot your dots (charts showing data over time versus tables of numbers)
4. Consider using only the 4 data tools
 - Pareto chart
 - Distribution or Histogram
 - Run Chart
 - Control Chart
5. Apply a 1 minute test. Are the conclusions obvious to everyone within a minute?
6. Identify Common or special cause variation
7. Are there signals in the data?
 - is it stable,
 - is it predictable
 - does our data tell us we are capable of new performance?
8. Do you understand the context of data?
9. Remember to try and avoid confirmation bias
10. Can we identify and link relationships between metrics