Why would I use this tool?

Data collection is crucial for effective, evidence-based improvement work. The Measurement Plan is a checklist for examining the data collection process in all its aspects: what, how, where, when and by whom. Engaging all team members through a clear, shared plan creates understanding of the outcomes you are trying to accomplish, making it easier to implement and monitor results.

How would I use this tool differently at different stages of the QI Framework?

The Measurement Plan is an important tool that assists the QI Team at every stage.

1. To assist leadership in thinking through the kinds of measurements that will assist them in understanding the current state of their organization and its readiness to embark on a quality improvement project.
2. As a plan for collecting data that will enable the Quality Improvement Team to narrow its focus and define a specific problem.
3. To plan accurate and timely measurement of the processes surrounding the defined problem in order to identify, understand and clarify the contributing factors.
4. To collect data on process changes that will enable the team to gain knowledge and understand whether a change is an improvement.
5. Measurement is the key to understanding what is creating positive change. Ongoing tracking of performance will help the team to sustain successes. Data can be a powerful tool in garnering support for improvement efforts.
6. Once the team is engaged in spreading success, to employ measurement to ensure continued success and anticipate and overcome challenges.

How do I use this tool?

1. Bring together the Improvement Team and your Improvement Facilitator. Ensure you have representation from the staff that will be accessing the data for the plan.
3. Make sure to identify whether the measure is a process, outcome or balancing measure. Don’t forget to indicate the unit of measure for your data (minutes, hours, percentage, etc.).

Measurement Plan

INSTRUCTION
What do I need to use this tool?

### Materials
- A computer with Microsoft Excel program installed.
- Projector
- Screen or cleared wall
- Your process map
- Problem/opportunity statement

### Timing
30–40 minutes

### Setup
Familiarity with Microsoft Excel (for the person entering the data into the Measurement Plan tool).

What tips and tricks will be useful in facilitating this tool?

- The Measurement Plan should be created as soon as the team identifies its problem/opportunity statement and has mapped the process it wants to improve.
- Use lots of clarifying questions, and try not to debate hunches—a great answer to “How much data do we need?” is “Just enough.”
- Automate the collection process if possible.
- If your organization has a decision support department, it may be helpful to include them.
- Always explore existing data sources.
- Ensure that the measurement plan is directly linked to the aim statement in the charter.