Tracking Change: The Run Chart

- Measurement is central to quality improvement (QI), providing evidence of change and thus guiding widespread implementation.
- Measures can include outcomes, such as vaccination rates to smaller process change indicators or tracking documentation of vaccine denials.
- Measures can be generated by the IT department (weekly reports), manual chart sampling or contemporaneous tracking (MA or nurse marks a form for each documentation they provide).
- Integral to the PDSA process, early evidence of success as shown in a run chart recommends expansion of the process to a bigger part of the practice and health care system.

One can take advantage of a programmed Excel spreadsheet to enter performance data and generate a run chart.

Below is a run chart from a DRIVE participant, with flu vaccine rates charted by month. As this was a small clinic, their efforts to increase the use of a strong recommendation by all clinic staff was derived from the EHR by the larger system’s IT department.

Sample Run Chart