Scale Up

Scaling up the change will mean the benefits delivered by the project are replicated in other services. This is similar to spread, but on a much larger scale, as it can be supported by system services and policy development.

Sustainability

The purpose of this phase is to wrap up the project, embedding long term change into business as usual. This is where you can evaluate and share the benefits you have achieved and spread your project to other areas.

Key points

1. **Demonstrate results**
   Scale up should only be attempted when you have sustained the change and are able to provide evidence of improved performance. Changes that address common issues, show consistent success and align with the Triple Aim, using strong quantitative and qualitative data, are more attractive for scale up. This will be more powerful if evidence is strong from several services.

2. **Develop a change package**
   A change package contains resources and information to guide other sites on implementing the change with fidelity. To develop this package, a number of sites or departments that have implemented the change should come together to identify the components of the change that are fundamental to success, and those that are adaptable. Be realistic about the costs required for sites to adopt this intervention.

3. **Influence statewide policy or guidelines**
   Scale up may sometimes seem daunting, but there are people and agencies that can help you and share the work. Do a rigorous evaluation to gather evidence of the benefits of the project, and speak to relevant organisations that can support scale up. In NSW this could include the Ministry of Health, Agency for Clinical Innovation, Clinical Excellence Commission, Cancer Institute and non-government organisations.

4. **Start a collaborative program**
   Collaborative programs follow a structured methodology which enables participating teams to learn from successful sites how the change was developed and implemented. It also provides them with the knowledge and skills to scale up through PDSA cycles. There is a strong focus on sharing and growing together, and maintaining momentum.
Considerations and tips

While not all projects are progressed to the scale up stage, it should always be considered. You don’t want to miss an opportunity for your hard work to influence and benefit at others on a wider scale.

Early consideration
Start to consider early where your project would be useful (for example, in sites other than your initial scope). Prepare resources as you go and document well so it’s all there when you need it. This saves time and energy in the long run.

Raise awareness
Make others aware of your project success and network through publication, conferences, clinical networks and social media. Promoting and spreading your work will raise awareness and help build towards scale up opportunities.

Think outside the box
Think outside the box when it comes to opportunities for scaling up. Assess the feasibility of this intervention in other contexts, from primary care to international markets. Is there a policy driver that would make this intervention useful to others?

Build a Community
Forming a community of practice that can share ideas and support new sites will create a stronger voice for the change, and demonstrate the feasibility of the change across different settings.

Key elements of resources kit

Scaling up

Further information

My Health Learning Log in Form – Redesign Sustainability (202465121): Sustainability and Spread
Planning for scale: A guide for designing large-scale improvement initiatives – www.ihi.org/resources/Pages/IHIWhitePapers/PlanningforScaleWhitePaper.aspx

Next steps

Congratulations on reaching a pivotal point in your change initiative! Taking your work to a wider scale is an important step in influencing and creating positive change throughout our health system.