



“What If” Worksheet

This worksheet was developed by Planetree as an exercise for healthcare professionals and volunteer patient and family advisors to complete collaboratively. It is designed to encourage councils to break out of their comfort zones and to take on new, potentially intimidating, but high impact improvement initiatives.

1.	<p>Define your “What If” endeavor (an opportunity ahead of you that, as a group, you have been reluctant or unwilling to undertake)</p> <p><i>Could be structural, e.g.: Inviting patients to serve on the quality and safety committee, involving residents in hiring new LTC caregivers, etc.</i></p> <p><i>Could be programmatic, e.g. co-developing a plan for re-engineering the care partner program so that it is more effective for patients, family members and staff</i></p>	
2.	<p>Assess level of risk</p>	<p>Will moving forward with this initiative compromise quality of care? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Will moving forward with this initiative put us out of business? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Will moving forward with this initiative damage our brand? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">If you answered NO to all of the above, go to #3 If you answered YES to any of the above, identify an alternate “What if” endeavor.</p>		
3.	<p>Assess Reward As a group, identify and document what the organization could potentially gain by moving forward with the endeavor.</p>	<p>Potential Gains: 1. 2. 3. 4.</p>
4.	<p>Assess Why Not As a group, candidly discuss what barriers are preventing you from moving forward with this endeavor, i.e. why is this a “What if?” versus a “Done that.”</p>	<p>Barriers: 1. 2. 3.</p>
5.	<p>Co-Develop a Plan For each barrier identified, come up with 1-3 strategies for overcoming that particular barrier.</p>	<p>1. a. b. c. 2. a. b. c. 3. a. b. c.</p>