

NDC12

Readiness Plan

User Guide

Plan, schedule, and visualize your path to
FDA NDC12 readiness — March 7, 2033

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1. Introduction

The NDC12 Readiness Plan is a free, browser-based planning tool that helps pharmaceutical manufacturers, repackagers, dispensers, and trading partners build a realistic, dependency-aware schedule toward the FDA National Drug Code (NDC) 12-digit transition deadlines: the 7-year Systems transition closing March 7, 2033 and the 3-year Labeling transition closing March 2036.

It pairs an inline-editable Gantt chart with a guided task editor so you can model best-case and worst-case durations, link tasks with Finish-to-Start, Start-to-Start, and Finish-to-Finish predecessors (each with optional month offsets), anchor key milestones to fixed dates, group work under headers and summary parents, drag bars to reschedule, and save your work to retrieve later.

Who this guide is for

- Project managers building an NDC12 transition roadmap
- Manufacturing, distribution, and regulatory leads validating timelines
- Pharmacy, payer, and clinical-systems leads scoping downstream impact
- Consultants delivering readiness assessments to clients

What's new in this release

- Sign-in is now optional — sign in once to autosave your plans and access them on any device via the saved-plans list (was: email + plan-code retrieval).
- Inline Gantt editing — task names, durations, confidence, predecessors, and fixed dates are all edited from the chart row or its task editor dialog.
- Add Task / Milestone / Header from a single + menu on every row, or via the multi-row "Add rows" dialog.
- Headers and summary-style parent rows for hierarchical grouping.
- Multi-Dependency Alignment (MDA) — when several Finish-to-Start lines feed the same successor, the connectors share a single vertical lane for a cleaner read.
- Per-scenario display: independent Dependencies and Dates toggles for Best and Worst views.
- Drag-to-reschedule on best-case bars and milestone diamonds (snaps to whole months).
- Autosave + Not-Saved pill, full Undo / Redo across every structural change.

Tip

You can use the tool anonymously — start from a template, build, and export. Signing in (free) enables autosave and lists every plan you have saved across devices.

2. Getting Started

2.1 Open the tool & privacy notice

1. Go to ndc12.com.
2. From the top navigation, choose Readiness Plan, or visit ndc12.com/resources/readiness-plan directly.
3. Review and accept the brief Data Usage & Privacy Notice. The tool stores plan data only when you save.

The screenshot shows the NDC12.com website with the 'Readiness Plan' tab selected in the top navigation. A modal titled 'Data Usage & Privacy Notice' is displayed in the center. The modal contains the following text: 'We collect anonymous assessment data (task durations, confidence levels) and an optional organization type to analyze industry NDC12 readiness trends. Your rights: Request data deletion or access anytime. We never sell your data. Compliant with GDPR, CCPA, and the California DELETE Act.' Below this text is a radio button with the label 'I acknowledge that my assessment data will be collected and used in accordance with the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. I understand I can request data deletion at any time.' At the bottom of the modal is a blue button labeled 'Accept & Continue to Assessment'. Below the button, in smaller text, it says 'By continuing, you confirm you are authorized to use this tool on behalf of your organization.' The footer of the page includes the NDC12.com logo, links for 'Our Mission' and 'Email Us', a 'Stay updated' button with an envelope icon, a 'Subscribe' button, and copyright information: '© 2026 NDC12.com · Independent resource, not affiliated with the FDA.' and an 'Admin' link.

NDC12.com What is NDC12? Readiness Plan Resources News & Insights

NDC12 Readiness Plan
Plan your organization's NDC12 implementation timeline.

Data Usage & Privacy Notice

We collect anonymous assessment data (task durations, confidence levels) and an optional organization type to analyze industry NDC12 readiness trends.

Your rights: Request data deletion or access anytime. We never sell your data. Compliant with GDPR, CCPA, and the California DELETE Act.

☐ I acknowledge that my assessment data will be collected and used in accordance with the Privacy Policy and Terms of Service. I understand I can request data deletion at any time.

Accept & Continue to Assessment

By continuing, you confirm you are authorized to use this tool on behalf of your organization.

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Figure 1 — Data Usage & Privacy Notice on first visit. Acknowledge the checkbox, then continue.

2.2 The Plan Launcher

After accepting the notice, the Plan Launcher (Step 1) is the first thing you see. If you are signed in, it lists every plan you have previously saved. From here you can open a plan, edit its details, save a copy, export it, delete it, or start a new plan from a template.

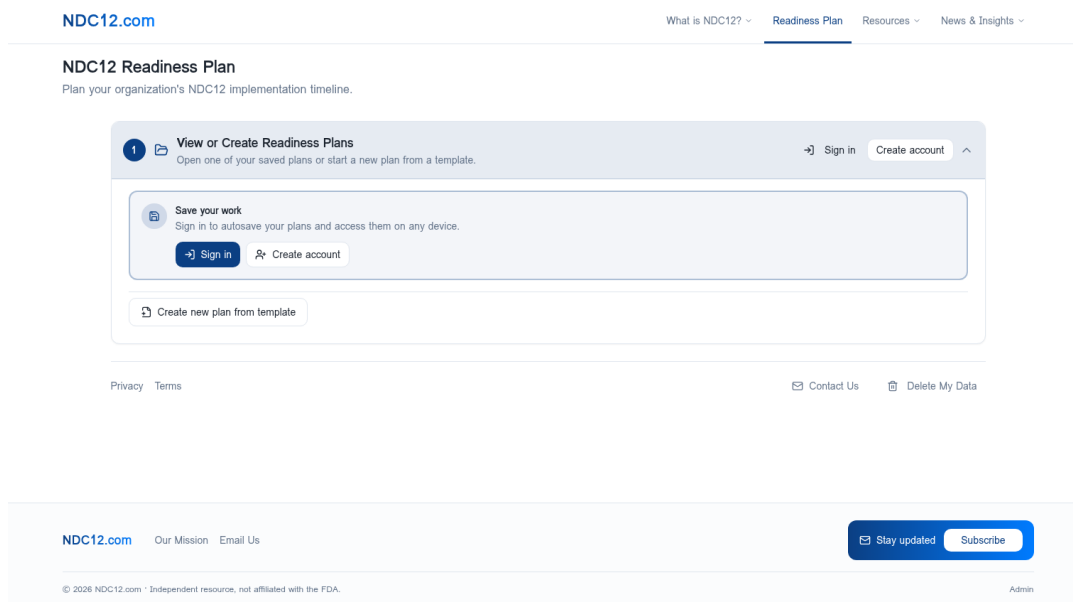


Figure 2 — The Plan Launcher. Saved plans appear at the top; new plans start from "Create new plan from template".

2.3 Choose a starting point

- Open a saved plan — Click any row in Your plans to load it into the editor.
- Start from a template — Click "Create new plan from template" to choose an Industry or Manufacturer baseline in Sequential or Parallel style.
- Start from scratch — Pick any template and delete what you don't need; there is no blank option by design, because every plan needs at least the FDA milestone.

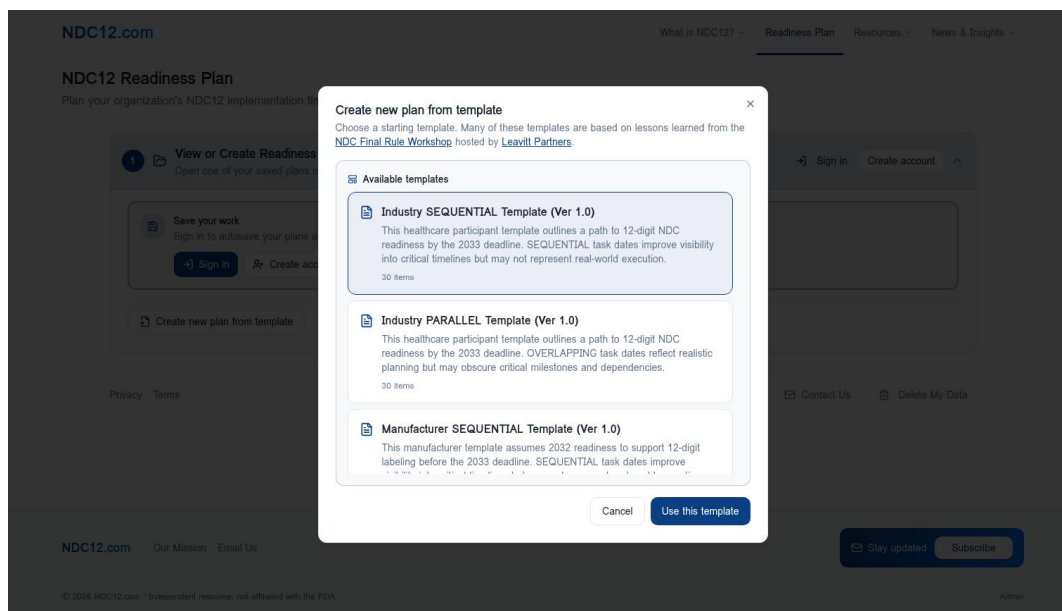


Figure 3 — Template Picker. Choose a published baseline; each template lists its item count.

After picking a template, the Plan Details dialog appears. Give the plan a name (60-char max), pick your healthcare segment and organization size, then click Start planning.

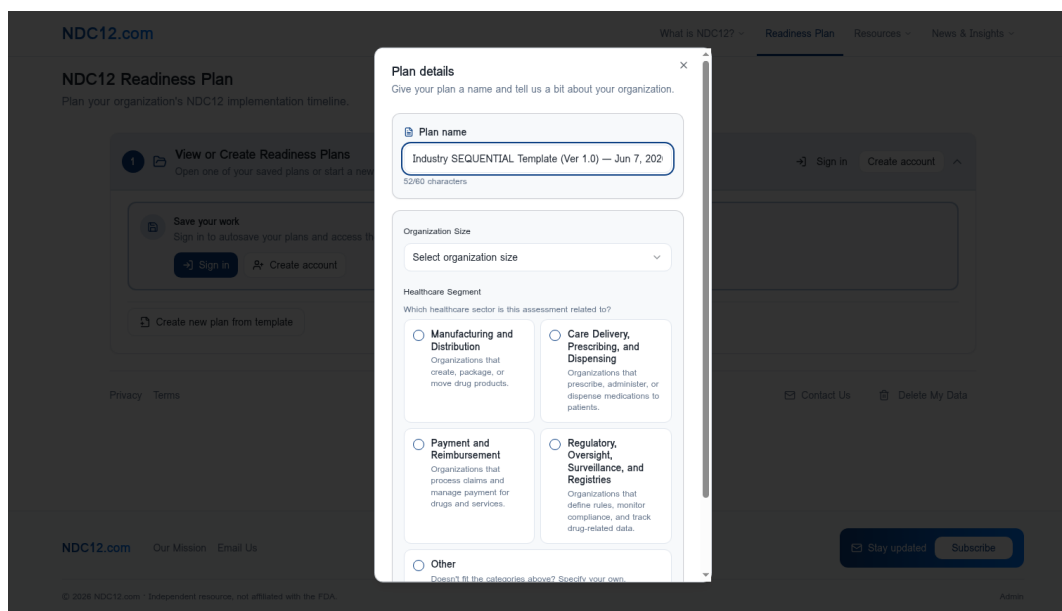


Figure 4 — Plan Details. Name, healthcare segment, and organization size are required before the editor opens.

Note

Templates are a starting point, not a prescription. Edit names, durations, dependencies, and milestones freely to match your organization. Many templates are based on lessons learned from the NDC Final Rule Workshop hosted by Leavitt Partners.

3. Core Concepts

3.1 Tasks, headers, and milestones

- **Task** — A unit of work with a duration in whole months and an optional set of predecessor links. Duration must be at least 1 month.
- **Milestone** — A zero-duration marker (rendered as a diamond) used to flag a key date such as "FDA submission" or "Go-live". Milestones can be pinned to a fixed date.
- **Header** — A grouping row that organizes tasks into phases. Headers carry no duration and do not participate in scheduling — they are a visual hierarchy device.

3.2 Parent / summary rows

Any non-header task can act as a parent (summary) row by having one or more other tasks reference it as their parent. When that happens, the parent renders as an auto-aggregated summary bar spanning its children, and its own duration, confidence, fixed date, and predecessors are ignored. Nesting is capped at two levels — a child cannot itself have children.

3.3 Best-case vs. worst-case

Every task carries a duration in months and a confidence percentage (10–100%). The scheduler computes a worst-case duration automatically from the confidence value, so the Gantt always shows both an optimistic and a risk-adjusted timeline. Lower confidence widens the gap between the two bars. The best-case bar is green; the worst-case bar is orange.

3.4 Dependencies (FS / SS / FF) and offsets

Tasks can be linked using one of three predecessor types. Each link supports a signed integer offset in months.

Type	Name	Meaning
FS	Finish → Start	Successor starts after the predecessor finishes. This is the default for newly added rows.
SS	Start → Start	Successor starts when the predecessor starts. Combine with a positive offset to model overlap.
FF	Finish → Finish	Successor finishes when the predecessor finishes. Useful for "ready when X is ready" milestones.

Offsets are applied identically to best- and worst-case views — they are not scaled by confidence. A positive offset pushes the successor later (lag); a negative offset pulls it earlier (lead).

3.5 Fixed dates

A fixed date pins a task or milestone to a specific calendar month, overriding any predecessor logic. Fixed dates are honored in both scenarios. Use them sparingly — they make the plan rigid and can mask scheduling conflicts.

3.6 Multi-Dependency Alignment (MDA)

When two or more Finish-to-Start predecessors feed the same successor, MDA routes their connector lines through a single vertical lane just past the rightmost predecessor. The result is a clean, easy-to-read convergence instead of a tangle of overlapping arrows.

4. Building Your Plan

4.1 Add rows

Every task row exposes a + menu. From it you can insert a Task, a Milestone, or a Header directly below the current row — no need to add at the bottom and drag up.

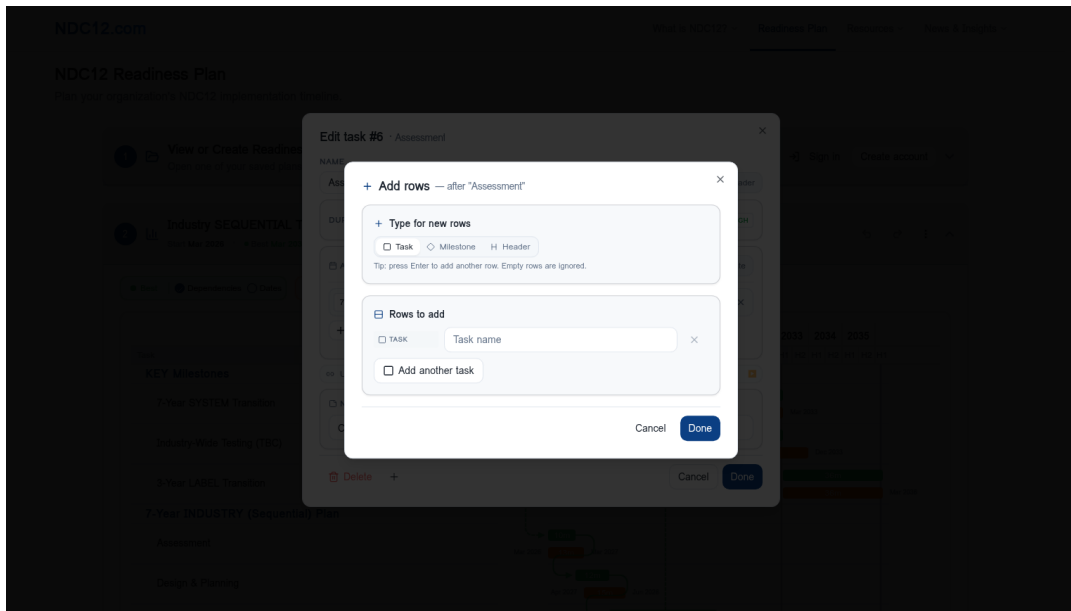


Figure 5 — Add rows dialog. Add multiple rows in one pass; switch row type with the Task / Milestone / Header chips.

4.2 Reorder and nest

- Use the drag handle on the left of any row to reorder it.
- Drag a task onto a header to nest it under that header.
- Use the parent field in a task's editor to mark another task as its parent — that parent then renders as a summary bar.

4.3 Edit a task

Click a task name in the Gantt to open the Task Editor. From there you can:

- Change the name and switch row type between Task, Milestone, and Header.
- Adjust Duration (months) and Confidence (10–100%, shown high / medium / low with color cues).
- Anchor the task to one or more Predecessors (FS / SS / FF, each with a numeric offset), or pin it to a Fixed date.
- Add Notes that travel with the task in exports and saved plans.
- Delete the task, or insert another row immediately after it.

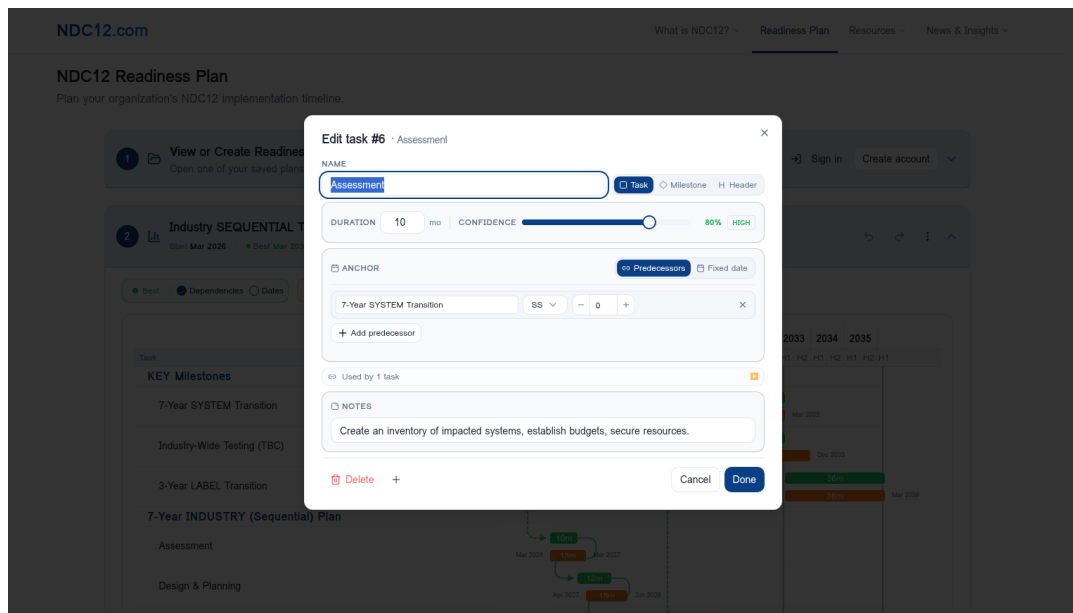


Figure 6 — Task editor. Switch between Predecessors and Fixed date with the Anchor toggle.

4.4 Undo, Redo, and autosave

The Undo and Redo buttons at the top of Step 2 step back through every structural change — add, delete, reorder, duration edit, predecessor change. When you are signed in, the tool autosaves your plan in the background and shows a status pill. If you are signed out, the "Not saved — Sign in to save" pill reminds you that work is local to this browser session.

4.5 Templates

- Industry Sequential — non-overlapping phases for the broader healthcare ecosystem. Best for visibility into critical timelines.
- Industry Parallel — overlapping phases. Best for reflecting realistic execution, at the cost of obscuring some critical-path detail.
- Manufacturer Sequential / Parallel — manufacturer-focused variants assuming 2032 readiness to support labeling before the 2033 cutoff.

5. Working with the Gantt Chart

The Gantt chart is the visual half of the planner. It always reflects the current task list — there is nothing to refresh.

5.1 Views

Each scenario — Best and Worst — has independent Dependencies and Dates checkboxes you can toggle in any combination:

- **Dates** — Bars show the calendar range, with start and end month labels. Best for reading the schedule.
- **Dependencies** — Connector lines appear between predecessor and successor bars, including MDA lanes for converging FS arrows.
- Either scenario can be hidden entirely by clicking its colored chip (Best or Worst) — at least one must remain visible.

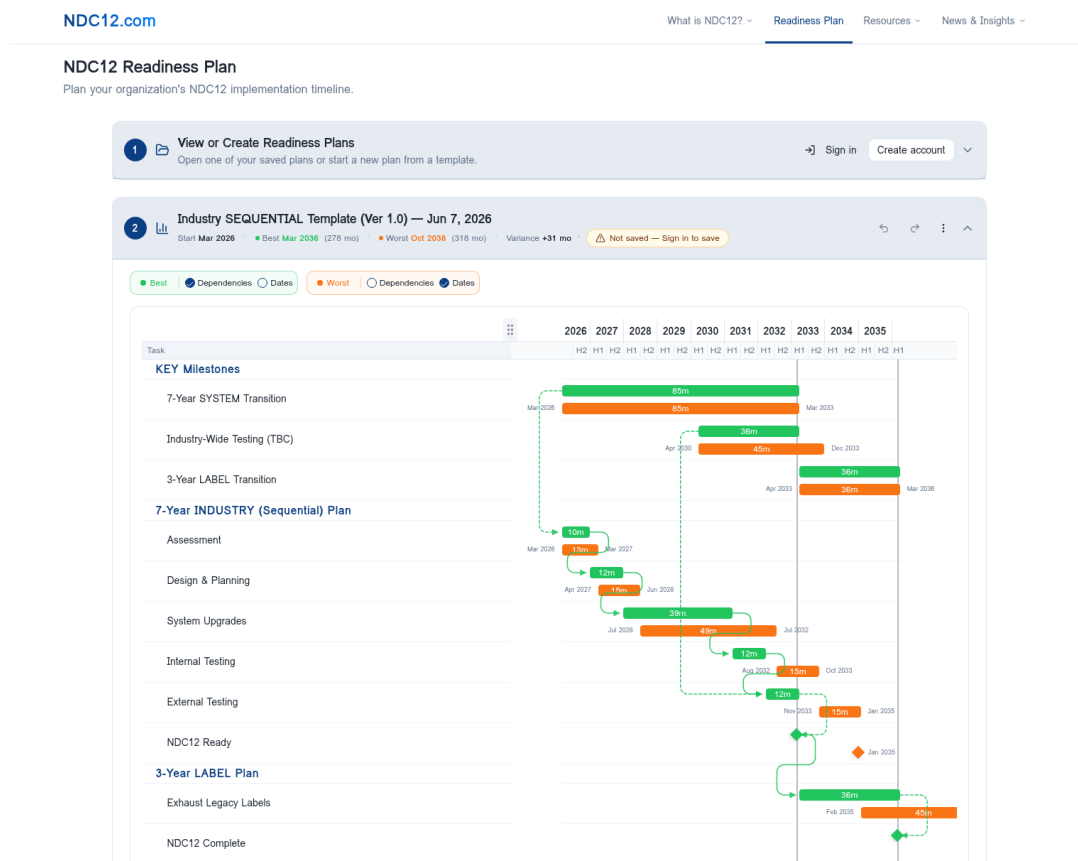


Figure 7 — Gantt chart with Dependencies on for Best and Dates on for Worst. MDA lanes are visible where multiple FS arrows converge.

5.2 Reading the chart

- Solid green bars represent best-case durations; orange bars represent worst-case.
- Diamonds represent milestones (zero-duration markers).
- Thin connector lines show FS (solid), SS, and FF dependencies; converging FS lines share an MDA lane.
- Two vertical reference lines mark the FDA Systems deadline (Mar 2033) and Labeling deadline (Mar 2036). These cannot be moved.
- The plan header shows Start, Best end, Worst end, and the Variance between the two.

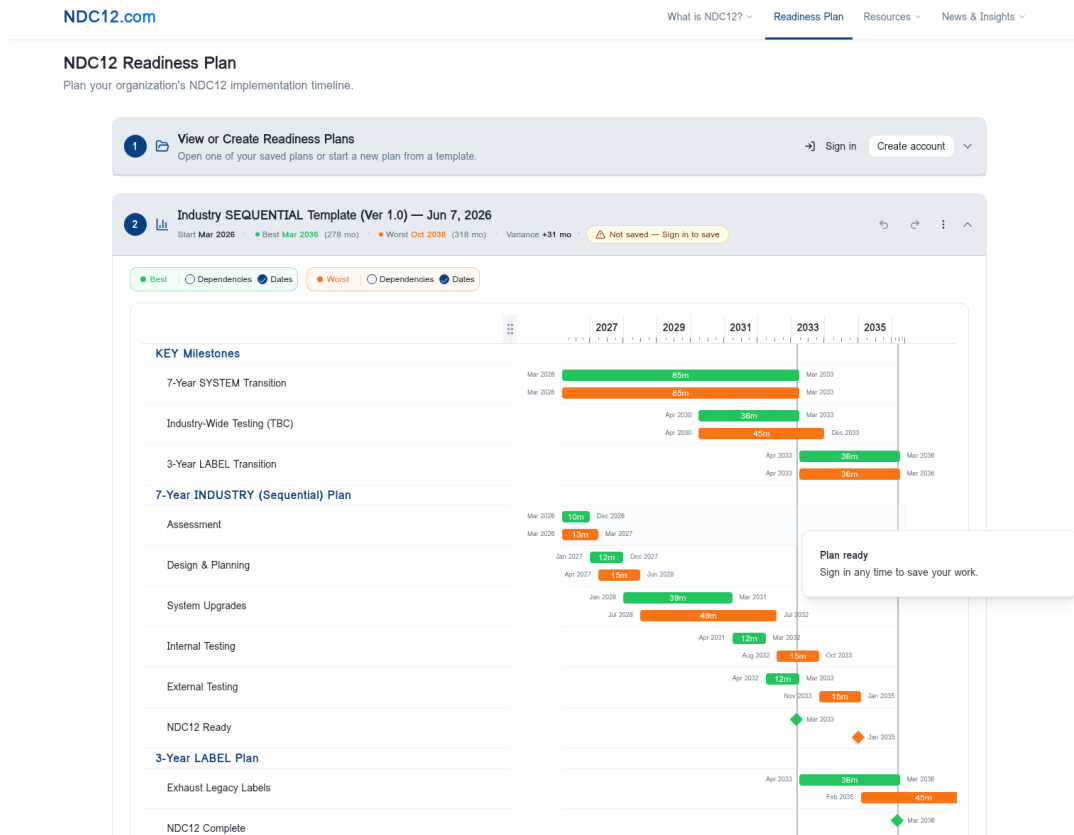


Figure 8 — A loaded plan with Dates view on. KEY Milestones, Industry phases, and External Dependencies are grouped under headers.

5.3 Drag to reschedule

The chart supports two direct-manipulation gestures on the best-case bars. All gestures snap to whole months and show a live tooltip with the new start, end, and duration.

- **Move** — Click and drag the body of a best-case bar (or a milestone diamond) to shift it earlier or later. This sets a Fixed date on the task. Move is disabled when the task has predecessors — adjust the predecessor or its offset instead.
- **Resize** — Drag the right edge of a best-case bar to change the duration. Tasks must stay at least 1 month.

Tip

Press Escape during a drag to cancel and revert. The worst-case bar is recomputed automatically from the new duration and confidence.

6. Saving, Loading & Sharing

6.1 Sign in to save

Saving a plan requires a free account. From the Plan Launcher click Sign in or Create account. Once you are signed in, the tool autosaves every change, and your plans appear in Your plans on every device you sign in from.

6.2 Plan actions menu

Each saved plan, and the currently-loaded plan, exposes the same actions menu:

- Edit details — Rename the plan or update its healthcare segment / organization size.
- Save as new plan — Duplicate the current plan under a new name. Useful for scenario comparisons.
- Export PDF — Render the current Gantt view (respecting your scenario and overlay choices) to PDF.
- Delete plan — Permanently remove the saved copy. This cannot be undone.

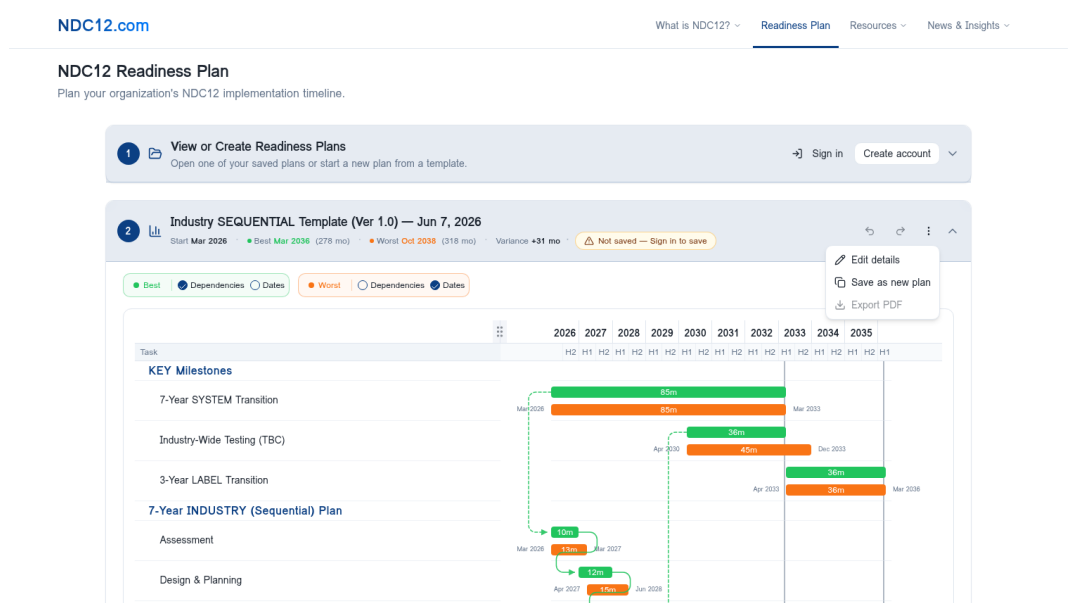


Figure 9 — Plan actions menu on the loaded plan. The same menu appears on each row in Your plans.

7. Exporting

Use Export PDF from the plan actions menu to produce a vector-quality PDF of the Gantt chart sized to the full chart width. Best for status reports, audit packages, and slide decks.

For PNG or JPEG output, use your browser's print-to-image function or take a screenshot of the chart area. Saved plans can be re-opened and re-exported later, so a stable archive is just a save away.

Note

Exports honor your current Best / Worst toggle and Dependencies / Dates checkboxes. Set the view the way stakeholders should read it before exporting.

8. Tips & Troubleshooting

"My task won't move when I drag it."

- Check whether the task has predecessors. Move and Milestone drag are disabled in that case — adjust the predecessor or its offset, or remove the link, instead.
- Resize is independent and is enabled as long as duration > 0.

"The worst-case bar is way longer than I expected."

- Confidence drives the gap. A task at 50% confidence has a larger worst-case spread than one at 90%.
- Open the task editor and raise confidence if your estimate is firmer than the default.

"I can't find my saved plan."

- Make sure you are signed in with the same email used when saving.
- Plans are listed in Your plans on the Plan Launcher, newest first.
- If you still can't locate it, contact support — see the Appendix for the address.

"My dependency arrows are tangled."

- Make sure Dependencies is checked for the scenario you are viewing.
- Where multiple FS lines converge on one successor, MDA routes them through a single vertical lane just past the rightmost predecessor — that is intentional, not a bug.

9. Appendix

9.1 Glossary

- **NDC12** — The 12-digit National Drug Code format mandated by the FDA, with the 7-year Systems transition closing March 7, 2033 and the 3-year Labeling transition closing March 2036.
- **Best-case / Worst-case** — The optimistic and risk-adjusted duration views computed from each task's confidence.
- **Confidence** — A 10–100% estimate of how firm a duration is. Lower confidence produces a longer worst-case bar.
- **Predecessor** — Another task that constrains this task's start or finish via an FS / SS / FF link with an optional month offset.
- **Fixed date** — A pinned start month that overrides predecessor logic.
- **Header** — A grouping label row with no duration.
- **Parent / summary row** — A task that aggregates one or more child tasks into a single rolled-up bar.
- **MDA** — Multi-Dependency Alignment. Shared vertical routing lane for FS connectors converging on the same successor.
- **Variance** — The number of months between the best-case and worst-case end dates of the plan.

9.2 Support contact

Use the Contact Us link at the bottom of the Readiness Plan page. It opens your default mail client and copies the support address to your clipboard as a fallback.