



# SMART Aim Statements: What are they?

An aim statement is a clear, explicit summary of what your team hopes to achieve over a specific amount of time including the magnitude of change you will achieve.<sup>1</sup>

## Aim Statement Format

**BY doing an intervention on the system, WE WILL CHANGE some part/all of the system, WHICH WILL RESULT IN these outcomes (i.e., metrics), BY time-period/date.**

Example:

*“Within three months of implementing an abnormal vital signs alert in our EMR, the time from vital sign documentation to first intervention will decrease by 10 minutes.”*

## Make it a SMART Aim

<b>S</b>	Specific	Clearly Stated
<b>M</b>	Measurable	Set numeric goals
<b>A</b>	Actionable/Attainable	Within the control or influence of your team
<b>R</b>	Relevant	Aligned with the hospital/network’s priorities
<b>T</b>	Time Bound	Specific time frame

Step 1: Develop a specific aim for your site (long-term goal)

Example: By December 2024, 100% of pediatric patients will have a full set of vital signs (HR, Temp, RR, BP, O2 stat) collected during triage.

Step 2: Develop a SMART aim for initial PDSA cycles

Example: By February 2024, 100% of pediatric patients will have blood pressure collected during triage.

Operationalize: First area of focus is blood pressure and overtime progress to capturing the full set of vital signs by 2024.



## References:

1. Qi tips: A formula for developing a great AIM statement. NICHQ. (2017a, December 28). <https://nichq.org/insight/qi-tips-formula-developing-great-aim-statement>

