

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.¹

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

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

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>

