

**2011 National Patient Safety Goals**  
**10-Minute Mini-Tracer**  
**Critical Results**

This tracer is meant for small groups of two or three staff members. Staff members will complete the tracer and document the answers.

**Section I: Question and answer:** Find two staff members and ask them the following questions. Write the answers in the spaces below.

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
1. What is meant by a critical result and why is it important?		
2. How long do you have to contact the physician after the result has been called to the unit?		
3. Do RNs need to write the result in the Critical Result Log?		

**Section II: Observation**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
4. Check the Critical Results Log. The log contains the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Patient name and medical record number</li> <li>○ Full name of person taking the result</li> <li>○ Full name and credentials of person receiving the result</li> </ul>		

5.		
Ask 2 RNs on the unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o to define what is meant by critical result and why it is important</li> <li>o What is the acceptable time frame between the time the critical result is called to the unit and the time the MD/PA/NP receives the result.</li> </ul>		
b. Receiving a patient from the emergency department		
c. Taking over the care of a patient from a staff member who is leaving for the day		