



### Creating Causal Statements

There are Five Rules for Creating Causal Statements:

1. Clearly show cause and effect relationship
2. Use specific and accurate descriptions
3. Identify the system cause of the error
4. Identify preceding cause of policy or procedure violation
5. Acknowledge: failure to act is only causal when there is a preceding duty to act

#### EXAMPLE:

Error: Patient did not receive home medications for 5 days.

Statement: The lack of a policy to reconcile home medications with the physician's admitting orders resulted in the absence of an initial order for administration of specific home medications, which increased the likelihood that the home medications were omitted for five days after surgery.

Format:

The lack of \_\_\_\_\_ resulted in \_\_\_\_\_ which

Increased the likelihood that \_\_\_\_\_.