

# 1 Problem

<b>What</b>	Problem(s)	Overdose of sedative	
<b>When</b>	Date	?	
	Time	10:22 AM	
	Different, unusual, unique	RN did not repeat orders as required	
<b>Where</b>	Facility, site	California Hospital	
	Unit, area, equipment	Versed	
	Task being performed	Bedside bronchoscopy	
<b>Impact to the Goals</b>			
<b>Patient Safety</b>	Patient death		
<b>Employee Safety</b>	N/A		
<b>Environmental</b>	N/A		
<b>Compliance</b>	Failure to obey hospital policy		
<b>Patient Services</b>	Patient overdose of Versed		
<b>Schedule/ Operations</b>	Fined by State of California	\$50,000	
<b>Property/ Equipment</b>	N/A		
<b>Labor/ Time</b>	Additional care required		
		This incident	\$50,000
Frequency	Hospital's 3rd administrative penalty	Annualized Cost	?

# SEDATION OVERDOSE

## Cause Map

### Failure to read back physician order causes patient death

Rather than the maximum dose (1.5 milligrams over no less than 2 minutes) of Versed, a powerful sedative, a patient received 4.0 milligrams in 1 minute, causing respiratory depression and eventual death.

"I was shocked when he told me 4 milligrams. I didn't order that. If [the nurse] had read back the Versed order to me I would have stopped him."  
- Attending Physician

Cause Mapping is a Root Cause Analysis method that captures basic cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

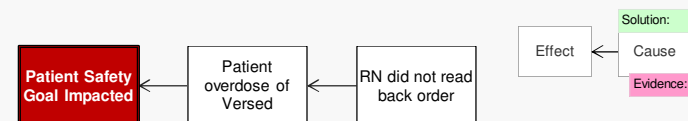
## CAUSE MAPPING

Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

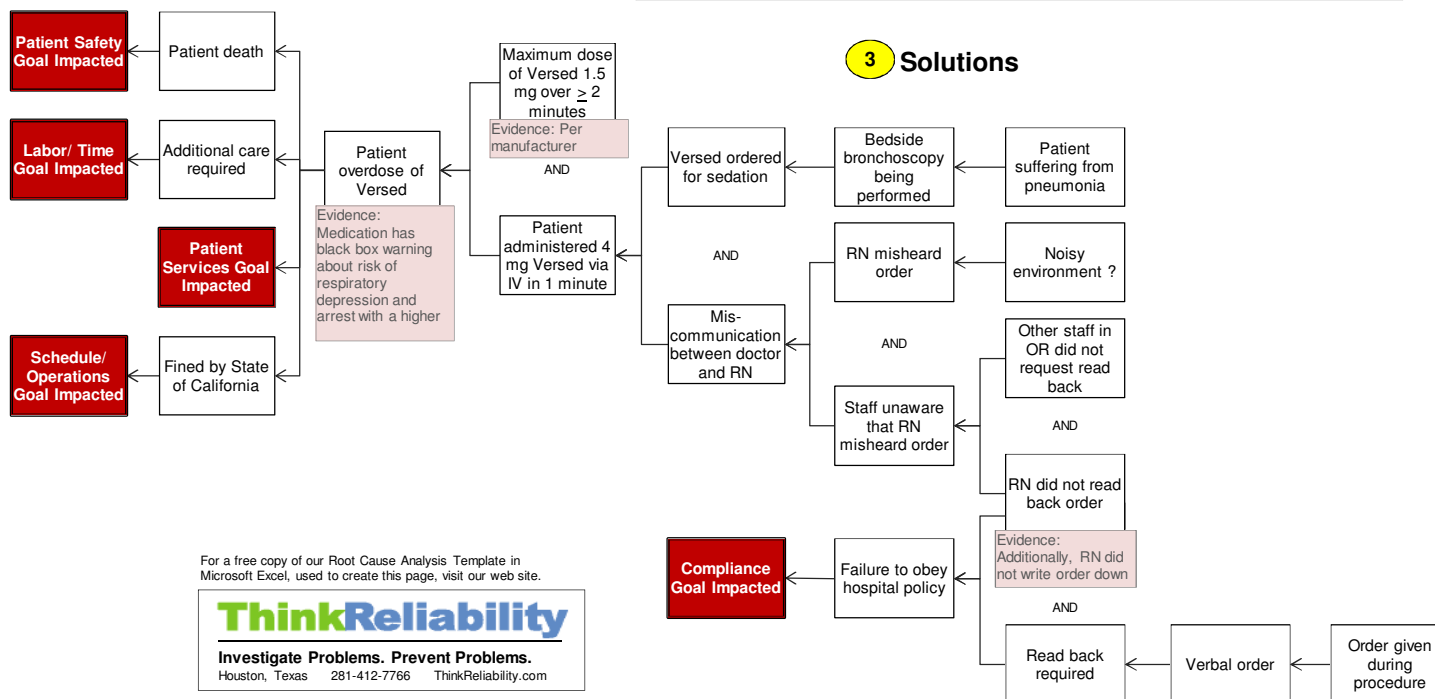
- Step 1 Problem** - What's the Problem?
- Step 2 Analysis** - Why did it happen?
- Step 3 Solutions** - What will be done?

## 2 Analysis

**Basic Level Cause Map** - Start with simple Why questions.



**More Detailed Cause Map** - Add detail as information becomes available.



## Timeline

Date	Time	Description
Day 1	11:00	Patient admitted to ED for coughing, difficulty breathing Radiology report showed partial collapse of lung tissue, liquid in lungs Patient diagnosed with pneumonia
Day 2	10:00	Bronchoscopy procedure performed at bedside
	10:22	Patient administered Versed 2 mg IV push
	10:23	Patient administered additional Versed 2 mg IV push Patient developed apnea, hypotension Patient given CPR and epinephrine
	10:25	Code Blue initiated Patient given Romazicon 0.5 milligrams, saline & albumin
	10:31	Breathing tube placed for artificial respiration
	10:33	Patient received saline bolus
	10:40	Patient transferred to ICU
Day 11	10:40	Patient administered Levophed Patient death

For a free copy of our Root Cause Analysis Template in Microsoft Excel, used to create this page, visit our web site.



**Investigate Problems. Prevent Problems.**  
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