

# DISABLED RESIDENT DIES WHEN CAREGIVER FALLS ASLEEP

Cause Map

## Nurse sentenced to 90 days in jail for endangerment

A physically disabled patient in a New York state-run care home required checks every two hours to ensure he was receiving adequate oxygen. On the night of September 10, 2013, his nurse fell asleep, and he went more than 8 hours without the checks. During this time, his oxygen level dropped to 40% (anything below

"This case serves as a tragic reminder of the serious risk posed by an all too common workforce problem of caregiver fatigue or workers sleeping on shifts."

- Prosecutor Patricia Gunning, New York State Justice Center for the Protection of People with Special Needs

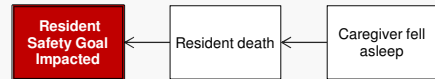
### 1 Problem

What When	Problem(s)	Resident death due to lack of oxygen
	Date	September 10, 2013
	Time	11 p.m.
Where	Different, unusual, unique	Caregiver fell asleep
	Facility, site	DeWitt, New York
	Unit, area, equipment	State-run group home
Impact to the Goals	Task being performed	Ensuring oxygen delivery to resident
	<b>Resident Safety</b>	Resident death
	<b>Compliance</b>	Felony charges against nurse
	<b>Resident Services</b>	Resident did not receive adequate oxygen
Frequency		458 reports of abuse or neglect in one year in New York that cited sleeping on the job

This incident ?  
Annualized Cost Significant

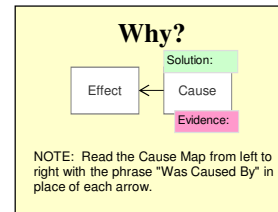
### 2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.



#### Basic Cause-and-Effect

The patient's oxygen delivery was not checked for more than 8 hours (as opposed to the required two) because the caregiver on duty had fallen asleep.



cause-and-effect relationships supported with evidence.

### CAUSE MAPPING

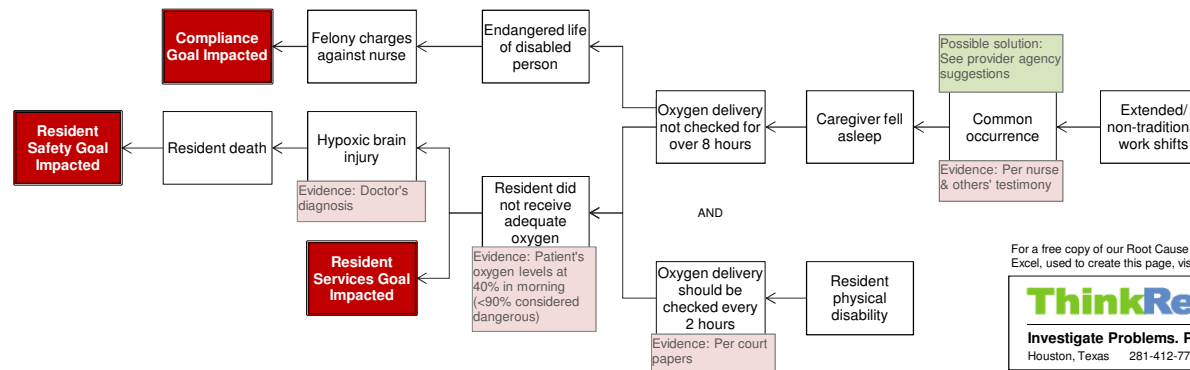
Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis

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

### 3 Solutions

No.	Action Items - for Provider Agencies
1	Implement & regularly review policies meant to deter and detect sleeping on the job
2	Establish contingency plans to relieve staff found unfit for duty
3	Provide assistance for residents to call for help if caregiver is unresponsive

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



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

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