

New Studies Shed Light on Statin Side Effect Concerns

Usage surveys have found that the majority of people who have been prescribed statins in the United States discontinue using them within a year. The number one reason stated by patients for stopping statin use is concern with side effects.

This issue can be analyzed by building a Cause Map, a visual method for performing a root cause analysis. The first step in the Cause Mapping process is to define the problem by filling in an Outline with basic background information (who, what, when, where, etc.). Additionally, the Outline is used to capture how the problem impacts the goals so that the magnitude of the problem is well understood. Once the Outline is complete, the analysis is performed by building a Cause Map by asking "why" questions to find the causes that contribute to an issue.

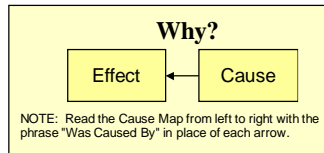
Like most other medications, statins can have serious side effects. According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the value of statins in preventing heart disease has clearly been established and the benefits outweigh the risks, but one of the reasons that patients are concerned about side effects is that there are very outspoken critics of statins that do not agree with this assessment. For the purpose of this example, we will assume that the FDA is correct that patients would benefit from taking statins if they are prescribed and that it is in fact a problem if patients discontinue using statins when their physicians have recommended them.

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

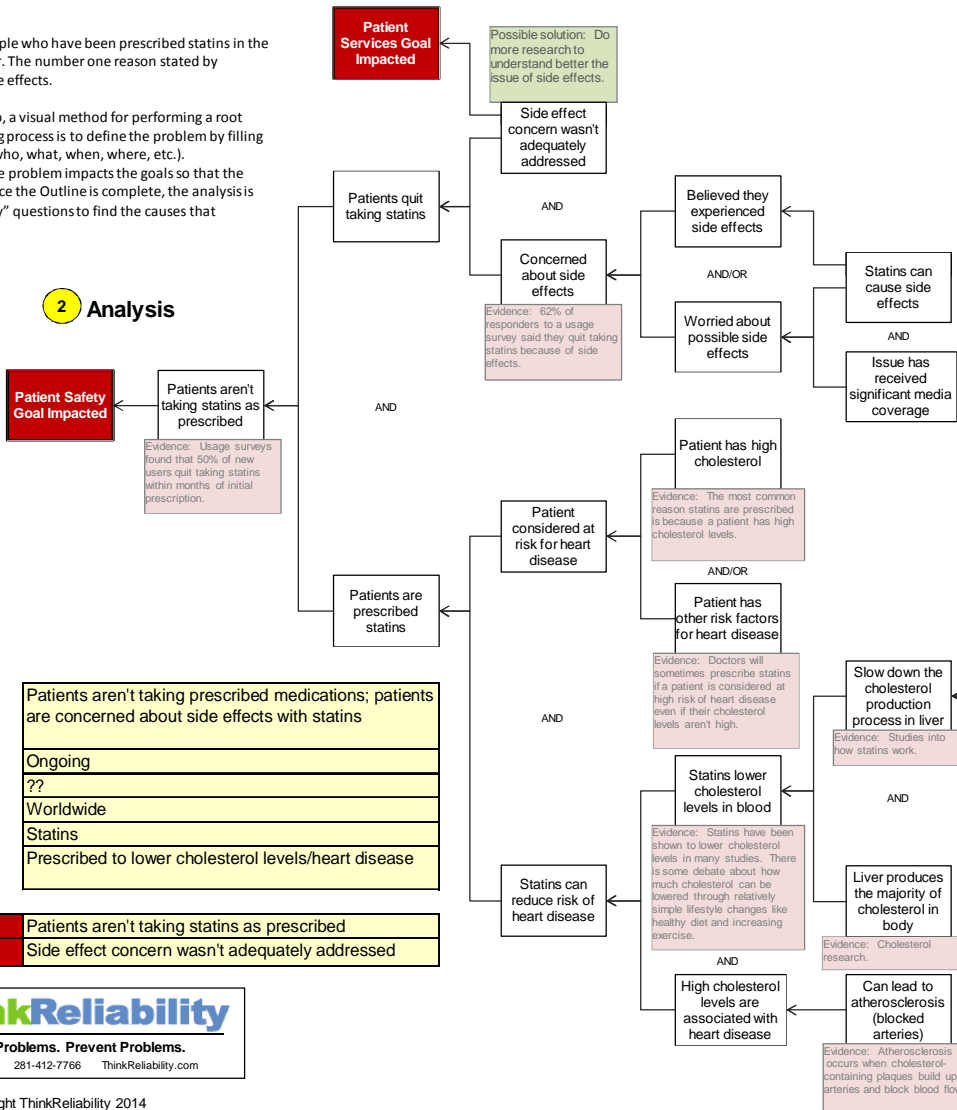
CAUSE MAPPING

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



1 Problem

What	Problem(s)
When	Date
Where	Different, unusual, unique
	Facility, site
	Unit, area, equipment
	Task being performed

Patients aren't taking prescribed medications; patients are concerned about side effects with statins	
Ongoing	??
Worldwide	Statin
Prescribed to lower cholesterol levels/heart disease	

Impact to the Goals

Patient Safety	Patients aren't taking statins as prescribed
Patient Services	Side effect concern wasn't adequately addressed

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