

BOTCHED LETHAL INJECTION

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

1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Lethal injection fails to quickly kill prisoner
When	Date	April 29, 2014
	Time	6:23 PM
	Different, unusual, unique	First time state had used new lethal injection drug (originally used sodium thiopental)
Where	Facility, site	Oklahoma State Penitentiary
	Unit, area, equipment	Midazolam, vecuronium bromide and potassium
	Task being performed	Carrying out death sentence by lethal injection
Impact to the Goals		
	Safety	43 minutes before death of condemned prisoner
	Public Service	Lethal injection called off
	Schedule	Other executions postponed
	Labor/ Time	Investigation
	Frequency	>7% of lethal injections have been botched since introduction in 1980

Cause Map

43 minutes after disputed execution drugs injected, inmate dies of heart attack

"We have a fundamental standard in this country that even when the death penalty is justified, it must be carried out humanely - and I think everyone would recognize that this case fell short of that standard."

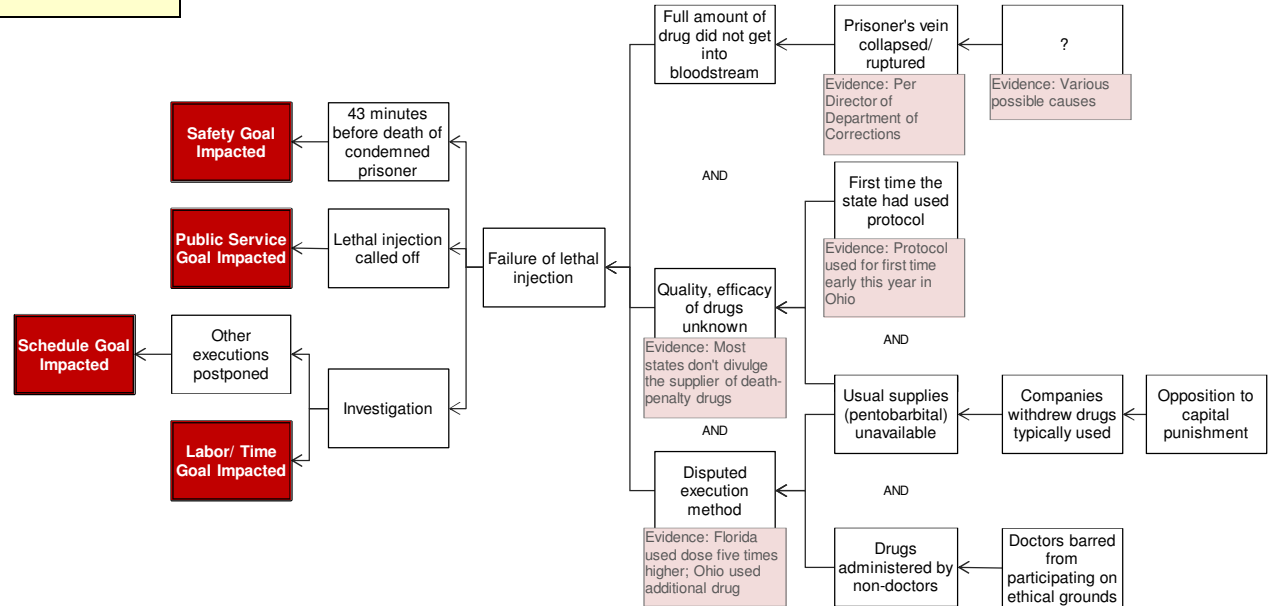
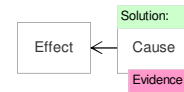
- Jay Carney, White House Spokesperson

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?

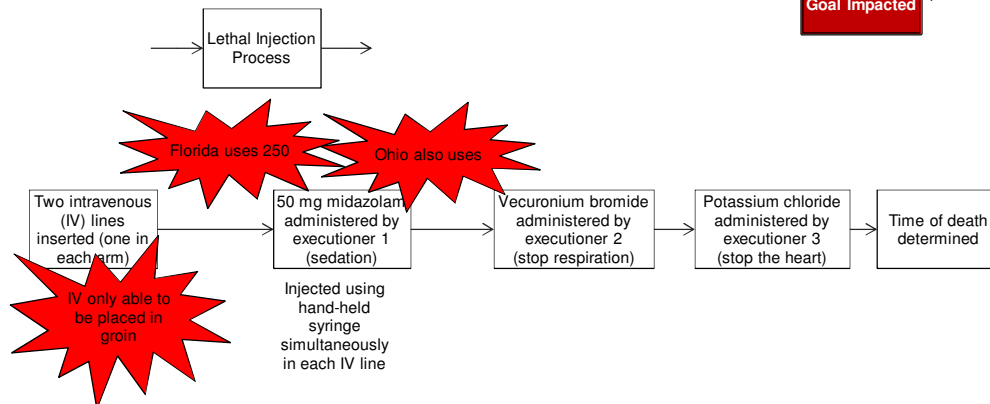
2 Analysis



Timeline

6:23 PM	Execution began with 50 mg of midazolam
6:30 PM	Prisoner found to still be conscious
6:33 PM	Prisoner pronounced unconscious
6:36 PM	Prisoner begins struggling
6:39 PM	Prisoner utters word "man"
	Official lowers blinds to prevent viewers from watching
6:50 PM	Department of Corrections Director announces the execution has been "stopped"
	Prisoner suffers heart attack
7:06 PM	Prisoner pronounced dead

Process Map



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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