

1 Problem

What	Problem(s)	Patient incorrectly assumed dead, organ harvesting process begun	
When	Date	October 20, 2009	
	Different, unusual, unique	Patient was administered heavy sedative	
Where	State, city	Syracuse, NY	
	Facility, site	Hospital Center	
	Unit, area, equipment	Emergency room	
	Task being performed	Preparing to harvest organs for donation	
Impact to the Goals			
	Patient Safety	Potential for patient death	
	Employee Impact	?	
	Compliance	Sanction, fine from state Health Department	\$6,000
	Organization	Negative press, public opinion	
	Patient Services	Potential for patient organ removal	
	Environmental	N/A	
	Property, Equip, Mtls	N/A	
	Labor, Time	N/A	
		This incident	\$6,000
	Frequency	State unable to find similar case in 10 years of records	
		Annualized Cost	?

PATIENT ASSUMED DEAD

Patient wakes in prep for organ harvesting

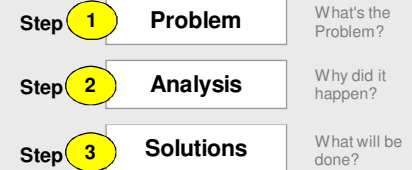
Despite signs that the patient was not brain dead, patient's family was contacted and agreed to organ donation. The patient received a sedative prior to the beginning of the organ-harvesting process.

"If you have to sedate them or give them pain medication, they're not brain dead and you shouldn't be harvesting their organs."
- Dr. David Mayer

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

CAUSE MAPPING

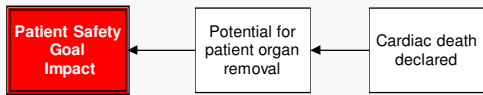
Problem Solving • Incident Investigation • Root Cause Analysis



2 Analysis

Basic Level Cause Map - Start with simple Why questions.

Basic Cause-and-Effect

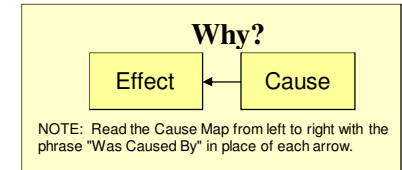
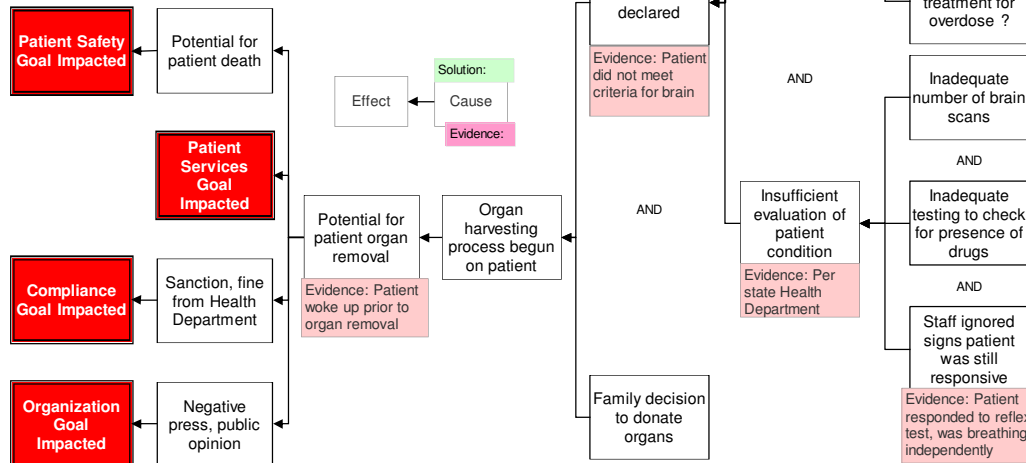


After what has been determined to be insufficient evaluation of a patient's neurological condition, the patient was declared brain dead and prepped for organ harvesting. The organ harvesting process was stopped when the patient opened her eyes.

Timeline

Date	Time	Description
10/16/09		Patient found unresponsive at home
	3:10 PM	Patient arrives at emergency department
		Toxicology screening positive for several drugs
	4:00 PM	Patient admitted to MICU
		Unable to place tube
	9:30 PM	Order for activated charcoal discontinued
10/17 & 18		Head CT scan - normal
10/19/09	10:30 AM	EEG - poor prognosis: "deeply comatosed"
		Family decides to proceed with withdrawal of life support
	6:00 PM	Nurse #1 documents patient responsiveness
	6:21 PM	Nurse #1 medicated patient with intravenous Ativan
	8:00 PM	Resident #2 and Neurologist #2 evaluated patient
10/20/09	12:00 AM	Patient moved to OR for Donation after Cardiac Death
		Patient opens eyes
		DCD halted

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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