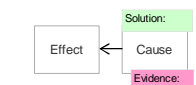


1 Problem

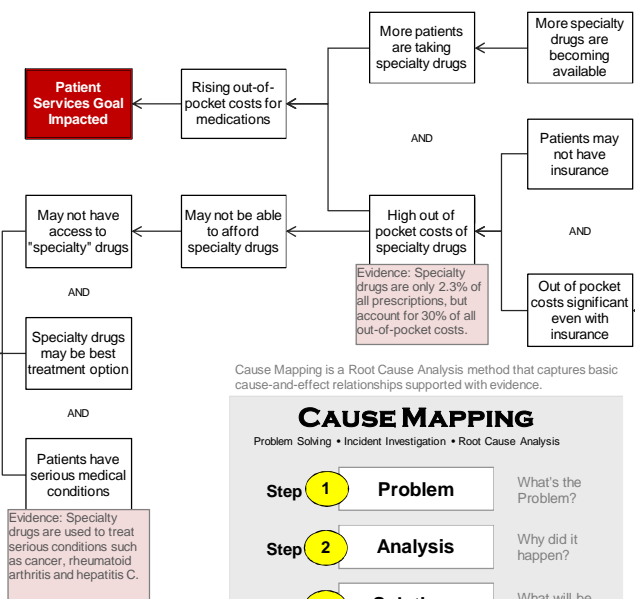
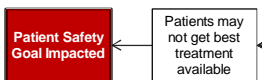
What	Problem(s)	Rising costs of specialty prescription drugs
When	Date	Ongoing
Where	Different, unusual, unique	More specialty drugs available
	Facility, site	Healthcare facilities and pharmacies throughout US
	Unit, area, equipment	Prescribing medication
Impact to the Goals	Task being performed	Treating of rare and/or serious illness
	Patient Safety	Patients may not get best treatment available
	Patient Services	Rising out-of-pocket costs for medication
	Economic	Decreased profits for insurance companies

Concern Over Rising Costs of Specialty Drugs

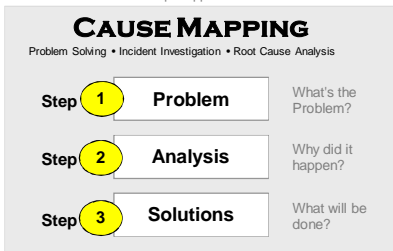
The good news is that more and more specialty drugs that show promise for treating serious medical conditions are becoming available. The bad news is that some of these drugs are really expensive, both for insurance companies and individuals.



2 Analysis



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



The new issues swirling around specialty drugs are illustrated well by the new drug for treating hepatitis C from Gilead Sciences. The new drug is a significant improvement over previous treatment with a higher cure rate, a shorter duration and fewer reported side effects, but it carries an equally significant price tag. The pills cost \$1,000 each with a typical course of treatment costing \$84,000. The pills are in high demand and Gilead has reported a record-breaking \$2.3 billion in sales of their new hepatitis C drug during its first full quarter on the market. But on the flip side, UnitedHealth Group, one of the largest US insurers, has reported it has spent \$100 million to cover the hepatitis C drug and had their stock prices decrease.



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