

Hypothesis Generation Checklist

Project: _____

Student/Group: _____

Post baseline data collection:

- What is the magnitude of this problem?
- Who would care about this problem? (stakeholder map)
- What is the desired target performance? (SMART AIM statement)

Hypothesis Generation: overarching questions requiring an answer prior to test of change

- What are the comprehensive set of factors that are contributing to the outcome?
- Of all the factors, which few are the critical ones that contribute the most?
- Can I explain, with pictures, the problem and its contributing factors to an outsider in sixty seconds or less?
- Do I sufficiently understand who is responsible for which steps in the process to be able to suggest a specific change?

Hypothesis Generation Toolkit (in order of effort required):

- Literature search
- Informal interviews with stakeholders
- Fishbone/Ishikawa diagram
- 5 why analysis
- Human factors analysis
- Process map
- Direct/timed observation study
- Pareto diagram

The purpose of this phase is to gain a granular, front-line understanding of the problem both in terms of breadth and depth to the point that you can easily explain it to a stakeholder. Once this phase is complete, it should be very clear at a glance which factors need to be addressed, and who on the front line influences those factors.