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Lean Tools and their Applications in an HPI Endeavor

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Abstract: Companies are looking for ways to reduce waste, lower supply chain costs, and increase shareholder value while developing an edge over the competition. There exists numerous techniques that can be applied to situations to achieve this goal, including process improvement, lean, six-sigma, supply chain, and ergonomics. A holistic approach is essential since it provides an insight into how work is performed so that opportunities can be determined, recommendations can be identified, and changes can be made. Lean techniques is one strategy that companies are trying to implement to understand the current situation (i.e. concerns). However, the grey area arises in the selection of the lean tool, and how and when to implement the selected tool(s). This paper provides details about some selected lean tools with regards to basic information about the tool, when to use the tool, the nature of data are typically required to implement the tool, and the benefits from using the tool.