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What you're doing well:

Where you're on track:

What needs improvement:

- It's hard to practice something new without any training or coaching. Transitioning to agile requires new thinking in addition to new practices. Some training definitely could help put everything into perspective and greatly improve your team's performance.
- The team must have all the resources to analyze, develop and test a story before acceptance by the Product Owner. If you don't have a Product Owner, your customer is not adequately represented. And without unbiased testing, quality could be compromised.
- If your Scrum Master is writing the stories and you don't have a full-time Product Owner on your team to represent your customer, then your team is not experiencing all the benefits of scrum or agile practices. With agile, responsibility for priority and gathering clear product requirements shifts from a part-time Executive Sponsor and the Project Manager to a full-time Product Owner, where someone who represents the customer's requirements and priorities is a participating member of the team.
- We have seen a trend where teams stop sizing Stories in favor of simply counting the number of Stories completed each Sprint. We believe that this is not best practice, because not all Stories are the same size. Before you bring a set of Stories into a Sprint, it's a better practice to size them with a relative sizing method, such as story points. That way you have a meaningful discussion about how big the Story is and whether or not it can be completed within the Sprint boundary.

Discount Code: JohnJohnson401-205