

SBAR Guide

The SBAR (Situation-Background-Assessment-Recommendation) technique is a communication tool designed to be used between members of the healthcare team about a patient's condition. It allows staff an easy and focused way to set expectations for what will be communicated and to ensure they get a timely and appropriate response.

Situation

- Identify self, unit, patient, room number.
- Briefly state the problem, what is it, when it happened or started, and how severe.

Give a concise statement of the problem.

Background

Pertinent background information related to the situation could include the following:

- The admitting diagnosis and date of admission
- List of current medications, allergies, IV fluids, and labs
- Most recent vital signs
- Lab results: provide the date and time test was done and results of previous tests for comparison
- Other clinical information
- Code status

Assessment

What do you think is going on, what is your clinical opinion?

Recommendation

What is your request or recommended action, and when is it required?

Examples:

- Notification that patient has been admitted
- Patient needs to be seen now
- Order change

Document the change in the patient's condition and physician notification

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