

Fairview

SBAR Communication Tool

What is SBAR?

SBAR is a verbal or written communication tool that enables information to be transferred accurately between individuals. This is important as we all have different styles of communicating, varying by profession, culture, and identity.

Why Should I Use SBAR?

SBAR helps to create an environment that allows individuals to speak and express their concerns. It can also help to ensure a patient gets what they need when they need it.

When Should I use SBAR?

SBAR can be used in any setting but can be particularly effective in reducing barriers to effective communication across different disciplines and between team members.

Clinical: All interactions centered on care decisions and interventions.

Non-Clinical: All communications that need immediate attention and action.

S

Situation

Concise statement of the problem

Example, "Dr. Smith, I have a patient of yours who is here on the wrong day for their appointment and would still like to be seen."

B

Background

Relevant background information to the situation

Example: "The patient arrived for an 11:00am appointment today, however their appointment is scheduled for tomorrow. We are unsure if this was our mistake or the patient."

A

Assessment

Analysis and considerations of options

Example: "The patient traveled 40 miles and needed a friend to drive them to their appointment. I looked at your appointments and you have a slot open this afternoon. Your hall partner also has a few slots open throughout the day."

R

Recommendation

Actions requested or recommended

Example: "I recommend the patient is seen today. If it is okay with you, I can add them to your open afternoon slot. Otherwise, I will connect with your hall partner to get the patient seen today."