



# Raise the SBAR

**Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation (SBAR)** is a communication technique used to convey a complete message in a concise manner. With SBAR, communication becomes streamlined and systematic, allowing less room for human error.

## Advantages of SBAR

- Decreases potentially avoidable and costly adverse events, such as emergency department (ED) visits, falls, and unnecessary medications
- Creates effective communication between providers
- Conveys information to team members in an organized way
- Promotes collaboration and enhances job satisfaction
- Improves quality of life for residents
- Reduces serious adverse events and unanticipated deaths when consistently used
- Increases perception of effective communication and collaboration
- Promotes effective, accurate, clear communication

## Using SBAR

Use the SBAR acronym as your guide. It can reduce barriers across all disciplines and levels of staff.

- Between nurses and physicians
- Interdisciplinary communications
- During nurse-to-nurse handoff
- In the nursing assistant to charge nurse report
- Anytime a change in condition is suspected

## Situation

When communicating about a resident, you should provide:

- The identity of yourself, the resident and your relationship with the resident
- What the problem is, when it started and how severe it is
- Code status
- Vital signs (now and baseline)
- Your biggest concern
- What the patient/resident is describing and their symptoms

## Background

Put the situation into context for who you are talking to:

- Admission date
- Active diagnosis
- Mental status (now and baseline)
- List of current medications and allergies
- Lab results with comparisons values
- Other relevant clinical information
- Relevant psychosocial information
- Resident/patient's goals for care and wishes regarding hospitalization, antibiotics, etc.

## Assessment

Explain what you think the problem is based on your current assessment and the resident's history. Has the resident ever felt this way before? If yes, what was the reason?

## Recommendation

Provide your recommended actions. Take into consideration the following:

- What do you hope to gain from the communication?
- Did you include the care the patient/resident wants or hopes to receive?