

SBAR

Home Health Package Introduction

SBAR Purpose:

The SBAR tool is a strategy to improve communication from clinician to physician, clinician-to-clinician and/or staff to manager. SBAR was adapted from the US Navy Nuclear Submarine Service. Submarine officers and crew needed a situational briefing model to communicate clearly, effectively and efficiently. SBAR organizes the message in a consistent and concise manner. SBAR has been adapted successfully into health care.

SBAR

S = Situation

What is going on with the patient? A concise statement of the problem.

B = Background

What is the clinical background information that is pertinent to the situation?

A = Assessment

What did you find? Analysis and considerations of options.

R = Recommendation

What action/recommendation is needed to correct the problem? What do you want?

SBAR, the Home Health Connection:

SBAR is perfect for improving communications in a home health agency (HHA). This simple tool condenses messages so they contain only concise and significant information about the patient and allows for the clinician to verbalize their assessment of the situation - what they think is happening and what recommendations/actions the clinician feels are needed to correct the problem. SBAR can be a strategy used with physicians to improve communications and outcomes, including reducing avoidable acute care hospitalizations. SBAR can also be used between staff and/or management. This tool can help HHAs clearly, effectively and efficiently express the real message of the patient situation. SBAR works well for home health aides to communicate to their supervisors or to the nurse as well as in interdisciplinary communication.

Sequencing & Reinforcing SBAR:

SBAR is a standardized communication tool that is very easy and simple to use. It is recommended that you start with a small group or office and pilot this method prior to rolling it out to the entire workforce. During the pilot you can make necessary changes without any problems. Once you have successfully implemented it on a small scale you can spread it throughout your organization. SBAR works well in more complex situations such as designing it to meet the specifications of a disease management program (refer to COPD example in package). Always remember to reinforce the new concept to gain behavioral changes and staff buy-in. This package includes several tools/resources to help you. These tools should be modified to your agency's specifications.

SBAR

(Physician Communication)

**Have ALL information AVAILABLE when reporting:
chart, allergies, medication list, pharmacy number, pertinent lab results**

SITUATION

I am calling about: _____ (patient's name)

The **problem** I am calling about is: _____

BACKGROUND

State the **primary diagnosis & reason patient is being seen** for home care: _____

State the pertinent **medical history**: _____

Most recent **findings**: _____

Mental status _____ Neuro changes _____ Temp _____

BP _____ Pulse rate/quality/rhythm _____ Resp rate/quality _____

Lung sounds _____ Pulse Oximetry _____ % Oxygen _____ L/min via _____

GI/GU changes (nausea/vomiting/diarrhea/impaction/hydration) _____

Weight _____ (actual) Loss or Gain Skin color _____ Blood Glucose _____

Wound status (drainage, wound bed, treatment) _____

Pain level/location/status _____

Musculoskeletal changes (weakness) _____

DNR Status _____

Other _____

ASSESSMENT

(What do you think is going on with the patient?)

I think that the patient is: _____

or

I am not sure of what the problem is, but the patient's status is deteriorating.

RECOMMENDATION

I suggest or request:

PRN visit or referral: Nurse PT ST OT HH Aide MSW Dietician

Visits frequency change

Schedule for a physician office visit

Physician, Nurse Practitioner or Physician Assistant home visit

Pulse Oximetry Lab work _____

Urinalysis, C & S X-rays EKG

Medication changes _____

Wound care changes _____

Nutrition or fluid restriction changes _____

Other _____

Call physician with: _____