



TOOLKIT 5 · PATIENT IDENTIFICATION · TOOL 3 OF 5

SBAR — Handover and Escalation Card

Situation · Background · Assessment · Recommendation. Thirty seconds, in the same order, every time you hand over or call a doctor

SBAR S — Situation I am [name, role] on [ward]. I am calling about [patient: name, DOB, bed]. The problem is [one sentence]. I am concerned because [vital sign / change]. B — Background Admitted [date] with [diagnosis]. Relevant history: []. Current treatment: []. Allergies: []. A — Assessment Vitals: BP, HR, RR, SpO₂, temp, consciousness. I think the problem is [] / I am not sure what the problem is but the patient is deteriorating. R — Recommendation I need you to [come now / review within 30 min / give an order]. I have [done]. What should I do until you arrive? — Read back any order.	SBAR S — Situation I am [name, role] on [ward]. I am calling about [patient: name, DOB, bed]. The problem is [one sentence]. I am concerned because [vital sign / change]. B — Background Admitted [date] with [diagnosis]. Relevant history: []. Current treatment: []. Allergies: []. A — Assessment Vitals: BP, HR, RR, SpO₂, temp, consciousness. I think the problem is [] / I am not sure what the problem is but the patient is deteriorating. R — Recommendation I need you to [come now / review within 30 min / give an order]. I have [done]. What should I do until you arrive? — Read back any order.
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Worked example — urgent call

S: "Doctor, this is Nino, nurse on Ward 3. I am calling about Giorgi Lomidze, born 12 March 1958, bed 6. His oxygen saturation has dropped to 88% on room air in the last 20 minutes and he is breathless."

B: "Admitted two days ago with pneumonia, on IV amoxicillin. History of COPD. No allergies."

A: "BP 130/80, pulse 110, RR 28, temp 38.2, alert. I think he is deteriorating — possibly worsening pneumonia or a PE."

R: "I need you to come and see him now. I have started oxygen at 2 litres and sat him up. Should I get a blood gas and an ECG before you arrive?" — "Yes, both, and repeat obs in 15 minutes." — "Blood gas, ECG, obs in 15 minutes. Thank you."

Cut into four cards; laminate. Two identifiers in S, always. Read back every order in R.

ASF standards: Standard 4 — handover and escalation; Universal Floor — identification