safe in our hands

SBAR Guide

Healthcare Improvement Scotland

NHS Scotland
SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment & Recommendation) is a communication tool designed to convey information to colleagues in a standardised and structured way. It allows staff to clearly communicate accurate information to ensure they get a timely and appropriate response.

An example SBAR follows.

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Situation
Identify self, ward and patient.
What is happening?
Give a concise statement of the problem.
Background
State the pertinent information relating to the situation.
What data will help to clarify?

- Observations
- Early Warning Score
- Relevant history

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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?

For further guidance on using the SBAR guide please see the fact sheet available on our website.

This SBAR tool was developed by Kaiser Permanente. Please feel free to use and reproduce these materials in the spirit of patient safety, and please retain this footer in the spirit of appropriate recognition.

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