SBAR Training for Laboratory Associate

Definition of SBAR

- **SBAR** is an acronym that stands for Situation,
- Background, Assessment, and Recommendation.
 - □ It is a standardized way of communicating a problem across the organization.
 - Associates and providers can use SBAR to share patient information in a concise and structured format.
 - □ It improves efficiency and accuracy in the care of patients and workplace environment.

Definition of SBAR

- *Situation*-Who you are and who, what, and where is the immediate problem
- **Background**-A brief description of relevant history related to the current situation or condition
- **Assessment**-Your view of the situation and your perception of the urgency of action
- Recommendation-Your suggestion about the action that should be taken to solve the problem or your request for guidance on what the action should be

History of SBAR

- SBAR was originally developed by the US Navy as a communication technique that could be used on nuclear submarines.
- The airline industries began to use SBAR in the 1980s after a series of airline crashes in which investigators determined that communication was contributing factor.

SBAR Communication

- Saint Agnes Hospital has adopted this form of communication for all associates. (Please reference hospital policy SYS HOS 68 Hand-off Communication).
- SBAR can be used:
 During change of shift

□Notification of alert lab values to providers

Notification of discrepant laboratory results/information

Communication regarding instrument downtime

Communication of unacceptable specimens to providers

Why is SBAR Important

- A program that facilitates effective communication is mandated by regulatory and accrediting agencies such as The Joint Commission and CAP.
- Identify patients correctly.
- Efficient communication between associates.
- Identify patient safety risks.





Situation: Who you are and who, what,

and where is the immediate problem.

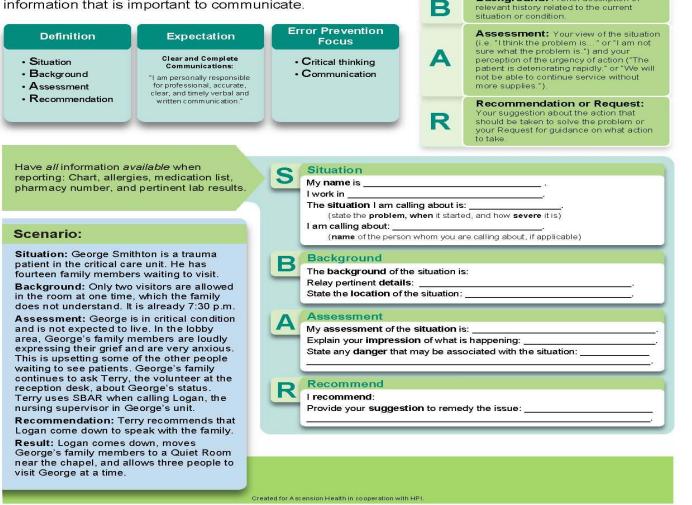
relevant history related to the current

Background: A brief description of

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Error Prevention Technique: SBAR - Non-Clinical

SBAR is a communication tool for planning and structuring information about a problem in both clinical and non-clinical situations. Each letter represents information that is important to communicate.



Example Scenario

A urine specimen has been pending on the log for 3hrs. Two pick ups were done from the Corelab. You have looked in all the transport containers and problem bin for the specimen.

Use of SBAR

- Situation- Hi this is [your name] from Micro.
 Specimens were received for "John Doe" but cannot be found in Micro.
- **Background-** The specimen was received by lab assistant in Meditech and has been pending for 3 hours. All storage areas of Micro has been checked.
- Assessment- Cannot perform testing until specimen is physically received in the Micro lab.
- Request/Recommendation- Please check the racks and refrigerators in the Corelab. Request sample from Sendouts if available or request to have sample recollected.