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.

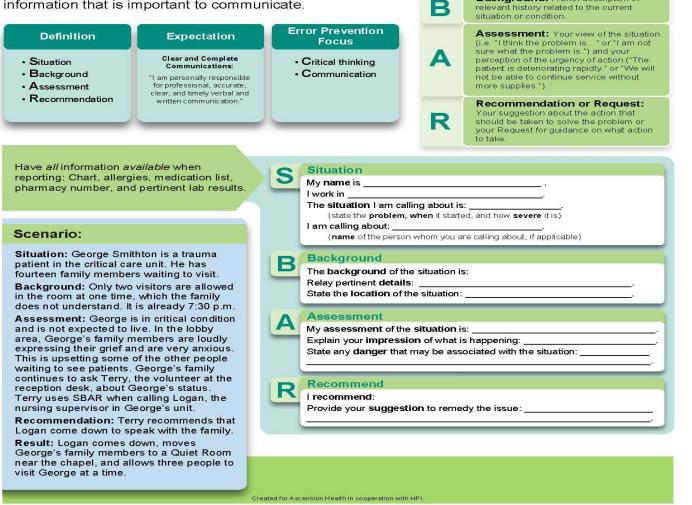
relevant history related to the current

Background: A brief description of

S

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 1

A specimen labeled for patient John Doe was received with a requisition for patient Joseph Hunt from GI. Specimen is irretrievable.

Use of SBAR

- Situation: Hi, this is [name] from the Histo Department.
 We received a requisition for patient Joseph Hunt, however the specimen is labeled for John Doe.
- Background: Specimen bottle labels and requisition has two different names. They do not match.
- Assessment: The laboratory will not be able to process the specimen until this issue is corrected.
- Recommendation: Please send someone to retrieve specimen and requisition for correction.

Example Scenario 2

Xylene has spilled in the Processing room and it is 5:30p in the evening. Spill has been evaluated to be small enough self cleaning. You report spill to Lead/Supervisor.

Use of SBAR

- Situation: Stacey or Scott, a small amount of Xylene spilled in the Processing room.
- Background: Xylene container was accidently bumped and some spilled on the floor.
- Assessment: Spill is very small and the spill procedures can be used to appropriately clean and discard materials.
- Recommendation: Use caution when cleaning and check spill response supplies for replacement of used materials.