



TeamSTEPPS® TIPS

SBAR

What is SBAR?

SBAR stands for **Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation**. SBAR is a structured communication tool that allows members of the health care team to communicate patient information in a concise manner;

- **Situation** — What is going on with the patient?
- **Background** — What is the clinical background or context?
- **Assessment** — What do I think the problem is?
- **Recommendation**— What would I recommend?

Why should I use the SBAR tool?

According to sentinel event data compiled by The Joint Commission between 1995 and 2010, ineffective communication is a root cause for **nearly 70 percent of all SEs reported**. Evidence shows that the use of a structured communication tool like SBAR can improve information exchange among health care team members and reduce the rate of adverse events. SBAR provides a vehicle for communications to be

- **Complete** — communicating all relevant information while avoiding unnecessary details
- **Clear** — using information that is plainly understood (layman’s terminology with patients and their families; standard terminology with health care professionals)
- **Brief** — remaining concise
- **Timely** — avoiding delays in relaying information that could compromise a patient’s situation

What would an SBAR look like?

S: Dr. Smith, I have patient Eddie Thomas in Room 6.

B: Eddie Thomas is a 56-year old with congestive heart failure and multiple ED visits. He looks pale and diaphoretic. His BP is 90/65 verified with a manual cuff. His pulse is 110. We’ve got him on O2.

A: I think he may be having an MI.

R: We need you to see him now.

Where can I get more information about SBAR?

Visit <https://www.leadingagekansas.org/tsmaterials>