

Shared learning

Theme of the week Effective use of SBAR

Date 12/05/2025

Background and context

During a weekend shift, a doctor received an exemplary SBAR (Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation) handover from one of our Nurses on Duty.

Nurse on duty provided a well-structured SBAR regarding patient's condition, ensuring the doctor had all the necessary information for prompt decision-making. She reported that the patient was unwell and actively experiencing a seizure. Given that the patient's medical history, the Nurse on duty highlighted that she has a known pattern of seizures occurring in conjunction with urinary tract infections.

What happened?

The nurse on duty, utilize SBAR which includes relevant background details, such as patient's previous brain injury due to status epilepticus and her history of urinary infections and retention. She also outlined the investigations she had already completed, demonstrating a proactive approach in assessing potential triggers.

Finally, nurse on duty clearly communicated her expectations from the doctor, ensuring a focused plan of action to address both the seizure and the underlying cause. Her thorough and concise report facilitated a more efficient clinical response.

What should have happened?

nurse on duty's SBAR successfully met these expectations. She clearly communicated that the patient was actively experiencing a seizure and provided critical background information, including her history of seizures triggered by urinary tract infections and past brain injury secondary to status epilepticus.

Additionally, the nurse took a proactive approach by initiating investigations to determine potential contributing factors, such as infection.

What we will do differently next time

We will continue to encourage and reinforce the practice of high-quality SBAR communication to ensure effective and structured handovers. By consistently using this method, we can enhance clarity, reduce misunderstandings, and promote timely medical interventions.

What have we learned?

This scenario highlights the importance of a well-structured SBAR in improving patient handovers. A clear and concise SBAR ensures that essential information is effectively communicated, leading to better clarity, efficiency, and decision-making, especially in urgent situations. By following this structured approach, healthcare professionals can provide relevant background details, proactively assess contributing factors, and outline clear recommendations for the next steps. This not only enhances teamwork and collaboration but also ensures that patients receive timely and appropriate care.



I have read this

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