

ISBAR NURSING HANDOVER TEMPLATE

Page 1 - Quick reference | For education and simulation

I

Identify / Introduction

Introduce yourself, your role and the receiving clinician; correctly identify the patient.

Prompt: Who am I speaking to, and which patient is this?

S

Situation

State the current concern and the reason for the handover or escalation.

Prompt: What is happening now? Why am I contacting you?

B

Background

Share relevant history, admission reason, treatment and recent changes.

Prompt: What context does the receiver need to understand this situation?

A

Assessment

Communicate observations, clinical findings, trends and concerns.

Prompt: What have I assessed? What has changed from baseline?

R

Recommendation

State the review, action or follow-up requested; clarify next steps.

Prompt: What needs to happen next, by whom, and when?

ISBAR structures communication; it does not replace assessment or local escalation procedures.

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Page 2 - Practice worksheet | Fictional or de-identified simulation cases only

Scenario / simulation ID: _____

Date: _____

I - Identify / Introduction

Who is calling? Who is the patient?

S - Situation

Reason for handover and current concern

B - Background

Relevant history, treatment and recent events

A - Assessment

Current findings, changes, trends and concerns

R - Recommendation

Requested review/action and agreed next steps

Do not enter real patient names, identifiers or confidential health information.

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Page 3 - Before-handover checklist and safety reminders

BEFORE YOU FINISH THE HANDOVER

- ☐ Have I identified the correct patient?
- ☐ Have I clearly explained the current situation?
- ☐ Is the background information relevant?
- ☐ Have I communicated important assessment findings and trends?
- ☐ Have I clearly stated my clinical concern, where applicable?
- ☐ Have I explained what needs to happen next?
- ☐ Are any outstanding tasks or risks clear?
- ☐ Is it clear who is responsible for ongoing care or follow-up?
- ☐ Has the receiving clinician had an opportunity to ask questions or clarify information?

SAFETY REMINDERS

Follow your healthcare service's handover, documentation and escalation procedures.

Escalate urgent concerns promptly; do not delay assistance to complete this form.

Educational use only

This resource supports student learning and simulated handover practice. It is not an approved clinical record, does not replace supervision or professional judgement and must not be used to store identifiable patient information. Follow current local policies and your supervising clinician's directions.