

**Situation, Background, Assessment, Recommendation**

**What is it?**

- It is a tool developed to improve communication between members of the multi-disciplinary team.

**What is it's purpose?**

- A way to enable caregivers to express their concerns.
- Helps to communicate problems clearly and concisely.
- Provides an opportunity to make recommendations
- Helps the team to reach decisions in a collaborative manner.

**SBAR**

- **S**- Situation – What is going on with the patient?
- **B**- Background – Relevant clinical background/concern?
- **A** – Assessment – What do I think the problem is?
- **R** – Recommendation – What would I do to correct it?

**What are the benefits?**

- Enables nurses and other members of the team to communicate effectively and in a short time.
- Respect of assessments because they are given in a concise and appropriate manner.
- Everyone in the team is aware of the plan.

**Remember**

- Nurses and physicians can have different communication styles. Nurses are narrative and descriptive – doctors trained to be problem solvers. Aim for concise and framed dialogue. Try for a 10 second punchline!
- Leave with a plan – what will we do to fix the problem and when will it happen.

*“Communication failures are the leading causes of inadvertent patient harm”*

*Leonard (2004)*

