

SBAR Hand-off Guide

The SBAR is the Joint Commission's recommended mode of communication to hand-off clinical cases or new problems in a concise and patient-focused way. The traditional SBAR was adapted for Social Work by our Department's Documentation Task Force (May, 2009).

It is not necessary to document that you have used SBAR in your hand-off to another clinician, but it is essential that you **recognize this as the standard by which we communicate transfer of care within the MGH Social Service Department**. This information can be communicated in writing, in person, or via phone.

Situation: - What was reason for original admission or referral and why is the patient is being transferred to a new a new service or social worker?
- Presenting problem.

Background: - Relevant history leading to current hospitalization.
For example: prior medical history, family/social situation, recent history losses, etc.

Assessment: - Formulation: What you think is going on in the case.
- Patient's acknowledgement of illness/ participation in treatment.

Recommendation: - Disposition issues, family involvement, contact information, concerns of abuse or neglect, issues to follow-up.