

ISBAR

I ntroduction	I Am.... I am calling because...
S ituation	I have a patient who is.....
B ackground	Admit date/presenting with.....
A sessment	This patient is at risk for.....
R ecommendation	Be clear -Transfer to....by X time

Figure 1 - ISBAR tool⁵

I	Identify Identify self: name, position, location and who you are talking to Identify patient: name, age, sex, location	
S	Situation State purpose "The reason I am calling is"	
	If urgent - say so	eg "This is urgent because the patient is unstable with a BP of 90".
B	Background Tell the story Current problem	
	Relevant history Relevant examination Relevant test results Management	If urgent: Relevant vital signs Current management
A	Assessment State what you think is going on	
	eg "So the patient is febrile and I can't find a source of infection".	Urgent eg "The patient seems to be deteriorating, I think they may be bleeding".
R	Request State request	
	eg "I'd like your opinion on the most appropriate test".	eg "I need help urgently, are you able to come?"