

Sample handover cue cards

ISBAR cue card 1

ISBAR prompts for ward/DPU nurse handover to holding bay nurse	
IDENTIFY	Handing over nurse identifies self. Identify the patient with three key identifiers: Patient (or designated other if unable) must state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first and last name • date of birth • UR number.
SITUATION	Ask patient 'What procedure will be performed?' (Check against theatre list.) Check consent is correct with theatre list.
BACKGROUND	What is the background/reason for surgery? Any other medical or surgical concerns/history.
ASSESSMENT	Follow 'Passport to surgery AD250' Should clearly state whether the patient has been identified as being at risk. Examples of relevant assessment and risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognition • falls • pressure injury • continence • nutrition • aggression/violence • most recent vital signs • trends in vital signs • oxygen therapy • medication i.e. cytotoxic • pain • bleeding • weight • wound status • urine output • carer concern • communication • IV cannula site/therapy • transmission precautions
REQUEST/ REFERRAL	All required patient documentation present. Patient readiness for surgery.

ISBAR cue card 2

ISBAR prompts for scout nurse handover to PACU nurse	
IDENTIFY	Handing over nurse identifies self. Identify the patient with three key identifiers: Patient (or designated other if unable) must state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first and last name • date of birth • UR number.
SITUATION	What procedure was performed.
BACKGROUND	Any surgical/intra-operative concerns.
ASSESSMENT	Dressings Drains Specimens Examples of relevant assessment and risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognition • falls • pressure injury • continence • nutrition • aggression/violence • most recent vital signs • trends in vital signs • oxygen therapy • medication i.e. cytotoxic • pain • bleeding • weight • wound status • urine output • carer concern • communication • IV cannula site/therapy • transmission precautions
REQUEST/ REFERRAL	Transfer to PACU.

ISBAR cue card 3

ISBAR prompts for PACU nurse handover to ward/DPU nurse	
IDENTIFY	Handing over nurse identifies self. Identify the patient with three key identifiers: Patient (or designated other if unable) must state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • first and last name • date of birth • UR number.
SITUATION	What procedure was performed. What type of anaesthetic the patient had. Drugs given intra-operatively, post-operatively.
BACKGROUND	What was the background/reason for surgery? Any other medical or surgical concerns/history.
ASSESSMENT	Follow 'Operation report' and 'Post-operative orders AD253' Examples of relevant assessment and risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cognition • falls • pressure injury • continence • nutrition • aggression/violence • most recent vital signs • trends in vital signs • oxygen therapy • medication i.e. cytotoxic • pain • bleeding • weight • wound status • urine output • carer concern • communication • IV cannula site/therapy • transmission precaution
REQUEST/ REFERRAL	Discharge summary completed and documented.

ISBAR cue card 4

ISBAR prompts for anaesthetist handover to PACU nurse	
IDENTIFY	patient staff members
SITUATION	procedure anaesthetic type
BACKGROUND	allergies comorbidities communication difficulties (including NESB)
ASSESSMENT	Intra-operative issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anaesthesia • surgery Current issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cardiovascular observations, limits, therapy • respiratory observations, limits, therapy • analgesia interventions to date and orders • additional needs e.g. anti-emetics, BSL • IV flushed, rate • PIVC chart present, up to date and completed
RESPONSIBILITY/ REFERRAL	Name and contact details ICU/HDU/ward/discharge/home