Standard 6
Clinical Handover
What is Clinical Handover?

Clinical Handover is the transfer of professional responsibility and accountability for some or all aspects of care for a patient or group of patients, to another person or professional group on a temporary or permanent basis.
Standard 6

Intention of the Standard:

- Ensure there is timely, relevant and structured clinical handover that supports safe patient care.

- Clinical leaders and senior managers of a health service organisation implement documented systems for effective and structured clinical handover. Clinicians and other members of the workforce use the clinical handover systems.
Standard 6

Three Criteria:

- Governance and leadership for effective clinical handover
- Clinical handover processes
- Patient and carer involvement in clinical handover
Principles of Clinical Handover

- Preparing for handover – setting, location and time
- Organising relevant workforce
- Being aware of clinical context and patient needs
- Participating in effective handover resulting in transfer of responsibility and accountability of care
Bedside Safety Scan

PERFORM SAFETY SCAN

- Place call bell within reach
- Check equipment is functioning
- Ensure mobility aids within reach
- Check infusion lines & drainage tubes
- Review medication chart
- Review bedside chart
Situation

- Brief description of Patient (name, age, gender)
- Date and reason for admission
- Treating team / Consultant
- Primary diagnosis
- Current clinical status (e.g. stable, deteriorating, improving)

Background

- Significant history relevant to the current admission
- Relevant co-morbidities / Infectious status
- Allergies and Alerts
- Advanced Care Plans, Statement of Choices, Acute Resuscitation Plan
- Usual living situation
- Current treatment plan / recovery goals
- Recent changes / progress with treatment
Situation Background Assessment Recommendations

Assessment

- Clinical observations / monitoring
- Current condition (Q-ADDS/CEWS)
- Physical status: Wound Assessment: Infectious status
- Outcome of any investigations
- Clinical risk assessment, any clinical incidents
- Progress toward discharge goals including continuing care

Recommendations

- Planned interventions or anticipated changes in treatment or infection precautions
- Potential changes in condition
- Critical monitoring parameters
- Specific monitoring required - frequency of observations
- Medication / treatment effects
- Discharge / leave planning
Summary Clinical Handover

- Transfer of responsibility and accountability
- Use the SBAR Communication Framework
- Prepare for clinical handover
- Perform a bedside Safety Scan
- Patient/carer involvement
Clinical Handover

It’s everyone's business

What do you need to do?