



DATA: A Compass Group Solution to Hand-Off Communication

Step	Suggested items for communication (not required, and only as appropriate to the patient's condition)
D	Demographics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify patient's name and room number and other relevant demographics • History of current illness or reason for admission (including surgical procedures as applicable) • Significant past history • Allergies (if new)
A	Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pertinent normal and abnormal findings related to reason for hospitalization or goals established • Abnormal assessment findings • Significant recent lab or test results (using read-back for any critical test results) • Psychosocial issues (family dynamics and coping) pertinent to care during the next care cycle • Focus of patient/family education if a major aspect of care (diabetic teaching) • Pain or discomfort, including any need for reassessment following recent intervention • Functional assessment (if pertinent to care during the next treatment cycle, such as toileting for joint replacement patients) • Nutritional assessment (if pertinent to care during the next treatment cycle, such as patients with poor intake and plan to consider supplementation) • Resuscitation status if other than full code
T	Treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgeries or procedures anticipated • Invasive lines and therapies • Wound care and dressing changes • Scheduled diagnostic testing
A	Action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate plan for the next care cycle (pain management, ambulation, or antibiotic therapy) • Discharge plan or anticipated discharge/transfer date • To do list—i.e., give pneumococcal vaccine, complete smoking cessation counseling—for the next care cycle or beyond, as appropriate • Consults pending • Follow-up items such as pending results that require communication to the physician • Physician plan for care over next 24–48 hours (if known)