## **GUIDELINE: COMMUNICATION STRATEGIES**

| Communication<br>Strategies* | Definition and descriptors*  |
|------------------------------|--|
| SBAR                         | A technique for communicating critical information concerning a patient's condition.   |
|                              | Situation – "What is your concern?"  |
|                              | Background – "What is the background related to the concern?"  |
|                              | Assessment – "What do you think the nursing problem is?"   |
|                              | <b>Recommendation</b> – "What would you highlight to the doctor?"  |
| Feedback to<br>acknowledge   | Acknowledge nurses' concern/suggestion about patient care.<br>Feedback should be:<br>• Respectful<br>• Specific<br>• Timely  |
| Call-Out                     | Strategy to communicate treatment plan directed towards achieving goals.         Call-Out:         • helps team member to understand the treatment plan         • enable shared decision making between nurses and doctors |
| Check-Back                   | Information communicated is acknowledged and verified by the receiver.   |
|                              | <ul> <li>Check-Back should include:</li> <li>receiver accept the message and provide feedback</li> <li>sender to ensure that the message was received</li> </ul>   |

\*Adapted from TEAMSTEPP curriculum<sup>13</sup>

Ferguson, S.L., 2008. TeamSTEPPS: integrating teamwork principles into adult health/medical-surgical practice. Medsurg Nursing 17 (2),122-125.