

ISBAR & IMISTAMBO Working Together

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I	The ISBAR and IMIST-AMBO mnemonics both start off with the letter I; however, it can perform a slightly different function. The I in ISBAR stands for introduction, which can include introduction of the clinician themselves and of the patient. The I in IMIST-AMBO stands for identification of the patient, including the patient's name and age.
S	The second component of both handover mnemonics relates to the explanation of what has occurred for this handover to be taking place. In the ISBAR mnemonic S[ituation] asks the person handing over to explain the immediate situation of the patient including chief complaint and patient stability. In IMIST-AMBO the M[echanism of injury] for a trauma patient, or M[edical complaint] for all other admissions, asks the person handing over to give a specific explanation of the patient's presenting problem and why they have been transported to hospital.
B	The third component of ISBAR is also quite broad compared to that of IMIST-AMBO. In IMIST-AMBO the I[njuries] in a trauma case, or I[nformation relating to the complaint] in other handovers, is similar in part to the B[ackground] of ISBAR. However, B[ackground] is defined ¹² as including the date of admission, diagnosis, treatment and test results up to this point in the patient's hospital journey.
A	A in ISBAR stands for assessment, requiring the person handing over to give a clinical assessment of the patient's condition. The fourth component of IMIST-AMBO, S[igns] also looks at assessment of the patient, however it quite specifically requires detailing of the patient's vital signs and GCS.
R	In ISBAR, the fifth component R[ecommendation] is the point of transition of responsibility and accountability for patient care ¹³ . This could include a request for the patient to be reviewed. In IMIST-AMBO the Emergency Department takes over responsibility of the patient at the completion of the handover, with ED staff deriving their own conclusions about what needs to happen for the patient. Further components of IMIST-AMBO include A[llergies], M[edications], B[ackground] and O[ther issues]. To ensure components are not lost, IMIST-AMBO requires their specification as this is the only opportunity for this information to be handed over.



Nurse

“Ambulance handovers have improved massively.”