



Checklist

Vital Signs: Assessing Peripheral Pulse

Step by Step

SATISFACTORY /

UNSATISFACTORY

EVALUATORS COMMENTS

Assessing Radial Pulse

*Provide privacy as needed.

*Introduce yourself to the client.

*Perform hand hygiene and put on appropriate PPE if indicated.

*Verify client identification.

*Determine whether the client has allergies.

*Provide client education.

Radial Pulse

Identify the appropriate peripheral site.

Place the client in lying or sitting position. For a lying position, place the client's forearm straight, next to the body. If sitting, support the lower arm and bend the client's elbow at 90 degrees.

Place the tips of your first, second, and third fingers over the artery site, and apply light pressure to locate the pulsation.

Note the rhythm and amplitude of the pulse.

Using a watch with a second hand, begin counting the number of pulsations felt in 30 seconds and multiply the number by 2.

If the rate, rhythm, or amplitude is abnormal or other clinical indications, count the pulse for one full minute.

**Document the relevant information (BP, site, and any interventions) in the client's medical record.*

References

Potter, P. A., Perry, A. G., Stockert, P., & Hall, A. (2017). *Fundamentals of nursing* (9th ed., pp. 517–520). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier.

Taylor, C., Lynn, P., & Bartlett, J. (2019). *Fundamentals of nursing* (9th ed., pp. 657, 677–678). Philadelphia, PA: Wolters Kluwer.