

PULSE SITES

- A pulse can be taken in at least 9 locations on the body; we will talk about them from head to toe → some are found more easily than others and are therefore used more often
- Temporal – superior & lateral to midline of eye (front upper part ear)
- Carotid – use for sudden deterioration in status (think CPR)
 - Carotid used in cardiac arrest, caution check only one side at a time (why??) – don't want them to pass out
- Apical pulse – any cardiac condition or cardiac medication – 1 full minute
 - Located 5th ICS, left mid-clavicular line
 - This is “ground zero”
- Brachial – medial aspect of AC space; Used to monitor B/P
- Radial – easy, frequent used most common site, easily accessible, thumb side of the wrist
- Femoral – where femoral artery runs alongside the inguinal ligament, determine circulation to leg
- Popliteal – popliteal artery passes behind knee; determine circulation to lower leg
- Post tibial – medial side of the ankle where the PT artery passes behind the medial malleolus; determine circulation to foot
- Dorsalis pedis (Pedal) – dorsal surface of the foot; drawn from the middle of the ankle to the space b/t the first and 2nd toes; determine circulation to foot

