Melisa Fahey

Vital Signs

Temporal Pulse Site- This site is easily accessible, used to assess sites for children. This site can also be used in the elderly for checking for vision loss or headache assessments.

Carotid Pulse Site- This site is easily accessible, used in patients with physical shock or during adult CPR when other sites are not palpable. In the case that an adult is unconscious/unresponsive, this pulse point is used to evaluate the status of the Heart.

Brachial Pulse Site- This site is used to assess upper-extremity blood pressure or during infant CPR. A Blood Pressure cuff uses the Brachial Artery to measure the pressure in your artery.

Apical Pulse Site- This site is used to auscultate for apical pulse. This pulse might be taken during a cardiac exam if a patient has a family history of heart disease or is experiencing symptoms of heart disease, such as chest pain, fatigue, irregular heartbeat, or shortness of breath.

Radial Pulse Site- This is commonly used as a quick measure of heart rate. This site might be used to assess the status of circulation to the hand.

Femoral Pulse Site- This might be used to assess the status of circulation to the leg. This site may be the most sensitive in septic shock assessment.

Ulnar Pulse Site- This site is used to assess the status of circulation to ulnar side of hand. Used to perform Allen Test. Would be used during a procedure including arterial puncture or cannulation and the harvest of the artery.

Popliteal Pulse Site- This site is used to assess status of circulation to the lower leg. Leg clots may be a time when an RN might check the status of the popliteal pulse, checking to make sure there is no blockage.

Posterial Tibial Pulse Site- This site is used to assess the status of circulation to foot. Circulatory issues such as DVT, infection, or cardiac issues might be a reason to use this pulse site.

Dorsalis Pedis Pulse Site- This site is used to assess the status of circulation to the foot as well. If there is no pulse at the dorsalis pedis point, this could be a sign of heart disease or circulatory issues.