

Online Vital Signs Assignment: Week 2

Lindsey Steele

Temporal Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment when working with children. The temporal pulse site is easily accessible to assess pulses in children.

Carotid Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment while performing CPR. Checking the carotid pulse in between compressions helps a nurse assess the status of the heart.

Apical Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment before the administration of Digoxin. The pulse rate should be 60 bpm or greater before Digoxin would be administered. It is a reliable way to assess a patient's cardiovascular system. An RN may also choose to use this site to determine if a patient is tachycardic or bradycardic.

Femoral Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment if their patient is in physiological shock, and the nurse was concerned about their tissues receiving an inadequate supply of blood. The femoral pulse assesses the status of circulation to the leg.

Popliteal Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment when worried if a patient's foot or lower leg was not being oxygenated. The site is used to listen to lower-extremity blood pressure and assess the status of circulation to a patient's leg, if there was no pulse then there might be blockage or internal damage.

Posterior Tibial Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment when a patient has had a vascular procedure or a peripheral vascular disease. This pulse point is used to assess status of circulation to the foot, and can be used to evaluate peripheral perfusion.

Dorsalis Pedis Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment to assess if a patient has peripheral vascular disease, if a nurse was worried about oxygenated blood flowing to the dorsal side of the foot, or if a patient was experiencing pain in their foot. An example of an injury would be a foot contusion. The dorsalis pedis pulse site is used to assess the status of circulation to foot.

Ulnar Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment while performing an Allen test because it can help assess blood flow to the hands. The site is used to assess circulation to the ulnar side of hand.

Radial Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment to count the heart rate in an adult, it is a common site to assess character of pulse peripherally. An RN may also choose this site if an arterial puncture occurred because this site assesses status of circulation to the hand.

Brachial Pulse: An RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment during CPR on an infant. This site is used to assess upper-extremity blood pressure.