

Online Vital Signs Assignment

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Temporal – this is a good site to palpate if an elderly patient were to come in with headaches/vision loss.

Carotid – mostly used in emergency situations like administering CPR.

Apical – this is used because it allows your provider to directly listen to your heart pump blood in and out.

Brachial – a nurse could use this site to administer CPR to an infant.

Radial – this site is the most common to take a pulse but is also used for a procedure like heart catheterization.

Ulnar – a nurse could use this site to perform the Allen test – which is a test used to evaluate the blood flow to the ulnar and radial arteries.

Femoral – this site could be used for a patient that is experiencing physiological shock because it's the most sensitive.

Popliteal – a nurse would use this site to assess a patient's circulation in the lower leg.

Posterior tibial – this site is used to assess the circulation to the foot.

Dorsalis pedis – a nurse would palpate this site in patients with peripheral vascular disease, which is a circulation disorder.