



"Pulse sites on the body"

**Your assignment (to be completed and placed in the "Online Vital Signs Assignment: Week 2" dropbox on Edvance360 by 8/31/2023 at 0800) is as follows:**

-For each pulse site on the above image, list one reason why you as an RN may choose to use this site for pulse assessment. You can either give a generalized reason or a specific patient situation. Please put the pulse site and answer in a word document and include your name.

**Temporal:** could be assessed when patient mentions having a throbbing headache.

**Carotid:** A car wreck has occurred. The patient is unconscious, lying flat, and pinned from chest down under debris. The head has lacerations, but the neck and carotid pulse site is visibly intact and accessible.

**Apical:** This could be used on patients with atherosclerosis that have a weaker pulse the farther you go from the heart.

**Brachial:** The brachial pulse should be found before a blood pressure measurement is taken.

**Radial:** One of the easier sites to check with little manipulation of limbs necessary. I'd use this for routine vital signs so that my patient can easily relax.

**Ulnar:** If a patient is experiencing numbness in the fingers, I would check the ulnar artery for a pulse because it typically supplies blood to the fingers.

**Femoral:** If my patient came in with a broken femur then I would check to make sure they still have a femoral pulse, and the bone is not occluding it in any way.

**Popliteal:** assessed to check how strong blood flow is in the lower legs, I'd use it and compare it to a radial pulse to discover any differences in strength of the blood flow.

**Posterior tibial:** a nurse could use this site on a patient that has poor circulation and is being monitored for being a candidate of a below the knee amputation.

**Dorsalis Pedis:** a patient that has diabetes is usually at risk of having poor blood flow in the feet and this must be monitored by checking the dorsalis pedis pulse site.