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Vital Signs-Pulse locations

Temporal- This site is easily accessible when checking the pulse rate of a child.

Carotid- If you find a pt unresponsive, this site is easy to access to determine if a patient is in cardiac arrest.

Apical- This site is used to listen for a pulse and to determine if there are any irregularities. This site is used in conjunction with a second person feeling a radial pulse to determine if there is a pulse deficit.

Femoral- Pulse is obtained in this area during cardiac arrest if other areas can not be felt. This site is also used to determine blood circulation through the specific leg being palpable.

Popliteal- This site is used to determine if there is blood flow to the lower leg.

Posterior Tibial- This site is used to determine if there is blood flow to a pt foot.

Dorsalis pedis- This is a 2nd site that can be used to determine if there is blood circulation to a pt foot. If a pt has a cold foot, numbness or tingling in their foot you will want to check for the dorsalis pedis pulse. If you can not feel the pulse, then use a doppler to verify if the pulse is present.

Ulnar- This site is used to check for the pulse present in a pt hand and to determine if there is proper blood circulation to the hand.

Radial- This is the most common site for checking a pulse.

Brachial- This site is used to auscultate blood pressure and blood flow to lower extremity.