

Malone Phillips

Nursing Foundations

Amy Rockwell

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Week 2: Online Vital Signs Assignment

Brachial

- This pulse is in the groove between the biceps and triceps muscle at antecubital fossa.
- This specific site is used to assess the status of circulation to lower arm and to auscultate blood pressure.

Radial

- This pulse is in the radial or thumb side of forearm at wrist.
- This common site is used to assess character of pulse peripherally and status of circulation to hand.

Ulnar

- This pulse is in the ulnar or little finger side of forearm at wrist.
- This site assesses the status of circulation to the hand and performs an Allen's test. This is a procedure that assesses blood flow to the hand by checking if the radial and ulnar arteries are working properly.

Dorsalis pedis

- This pulse is along the top of the foot, between the extension tendons of the great and first toe.
- This site is used to assess the status of circulation to the foot.

Temporal

- This pulse is located over the temporal bone of head, above and lateral to the eye.
- This is easily accessible and used to assess pulse in children.

Carotid

- This pulse is along the medial edge of the sternocleidomastoid neck muscle.
- It is easily accessible and used during physiological shock, cardiac arrest, or when other sites are not palpable.

Apical

- This is in the fourth to fifth intercostal space at the left midclavicular line.
- This is the site used to auscultate apical pulse.

Femoral

- The femoral pulse is below the inguinal ligament, midway between the symphysis pubis and anterior superior iliac spine.
- This site is used to assess the character of pulse during physiological shock or cardiac arrest when other pulses are not palpable. It is used to assess the status of circulation to the leg.

Popliteal

- The popliteal pulse is behind the knee in the fossa.
- This site is used to assess the status of circulation to the lower leg.

Posterior tibial

- This pulse is at the inner side of the lower ankle, below the medial malleolus.
- This site is used to assess the status of circulation to the foot.