

Jessica Seciliot

Temporal- Temporal pulse is felt from the temporal artery which is located in front of the ear. Easily accessible mostly used for children.

Carotid- Along the medial edge of the sternocleidomastoid muscle in neck. Easily accessible used when quick access is needed during shock, or cardiac arrest.

Apical- located at the fourth or fifth intercostal space at the left mid-clavicular line. It is used to auscultate for apical pulse.

Femoral- Located below inguinal ligament, midway between symphysis pubis and anterior superior iliac spine. Can be used when other locations are not palpable but also to check circulation in legs.

Popliteal- Located behind the knee in popliteal fossa. You use this to check the circulation in the lower legs.

Posterior Tibial- Located on the inner side of the ankle below medial malleolus. This is used to access circulation to the foot.

Dorsalis Pedis- Located along the top of the foot between the extension tendons of the great and first toe. Used to access circulation of the foot.

Ulnar- Located at the ulnar or little finger side of the forearm at wrist. Used to access circulation to hand, and also can be used during an Allen test (accessing the pulse at this location before certain procedures ex: ABG)

Radial- Radial and thumb side of forearm at the wrist. Most common site to access for pulse, easily accessible without making the patient become uncomfortable.

Brachial- Groove between biceps and triceps muscles at antecubital fossa. Used to access circulation to lower arm, and auscultate blood pressure. Can also be used to access pulse in children or babies.