

Unit 2 Online Vital Signs – Keira Keoghan

1. **Apical:** This site is used when an accurate measurement of the heart's actual beat is needed, especially if a patient is taking cardiac medications or has an irregular heartbeat.
2. **Brachial:** Commonly used for assessing the status of circulation in the lower arm, particularly in infants or small children. And, when auscultating blood pressure to ensure the pulse and pressure are consistent.
3. **Carotid:** Used in emergencies to quickly assess circulation to the brain or when a strong pulse is needed in a critically ill patient. For example, during physiological shock, cardiac arrest, or when the other sites are not palpable.
4. **Dorsalis pedis:** Used to check peripheral circulation to the foot, especially in patients with diabetes or peripheral vascular disease as it helps in finding adequate blood flow to the lower extremities.
5. **Femoral:** Site used to assess character of pulse during physiological shock or cardiac arrest when other pulses are not palpable, because it is a pulse that is centrally located making it easy to find. It is also used to assess the status of circulation to the leg.
6. **Popliteal:** Site used to assess status of circulation to lower leg and behind the knee, particularly in patients with trauma to the leg or peripheral vascular disease.
7. **Posterior tibial:** Site used to assess status of circulation to the lower leg and foot, can often be found used in patients who may be at risk for peripheral artery disease.
8. **Radial:** Common site used to assess character of pulse peripherally and status of circulation to the hand due to its convenience and easy accessibility.
9. **Temporal:** Easily accessible site used to assess pulse in infants and small children. But also, patients with weak pulses peripherally, or just when other sites are not accessible.
10. **Ulnar:** Site used to assess the status of circulation to hand; also used to perform an Allen's test to evaluate blood flow before arterial blood draws.