

Vital Signs Assignment: Isabella Blakely

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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: The temporal pulse site may be used to check the pulse of children as it's an easily accessible site.

Carotid: The carotid pulse site may be used when the other pulse sites are not palpable due to less blood flow to the peripheral arteries when a patient's cardiac output has declined due to their worsening condition. The carotid artery supplies the brain with blood, so in an emergency situation, such as cardiac arrest, it may remain palpable while the peripheral arteries are not.

Apical: The apical site is used to assess apical pulse. This site also may be chosen if a radial pulse is abnormal due to different medications, as the apical site is a more accurate representation of the patient's heart rate.

Brachial: The brachial pulse site may be chosen to assess circulation in either upper extremity when there has been an injury to that extremity. It also may be chosen to assess the pulse in children when the radial pulse is difficult to assess.

Radial: The radial pulse site may be chosen by the RN due to it being easily accessible

Ulnar: This RN may choose the Ulnar site if the radial pulse is inaccessible, absent, or weak.

Femoral: The femoral site may be chosen by the RN for a pulse assessment if there has been trauma to the lower extremities. The femoral artery is the main artery that supplies blood to the lower extremities, so the femoral site is chosen for a pulse assessment to make sure that there is blood flow/circulation to the legs. It also may be used if the peripheral pulse sites are weak or if the pulse is absent.

Popliteal: The popliteal pulse site may be chosen by the RN for a pulse assessment when a pulse is not felt in the dorsalis pedis pulse site in cases of circulation problems, shock, or even hypothermia. This pulse site is used to assure adequate circulation to the lower leg and foot.

Posterior tibial: This pulse site may be chosen to assess the foot circulation of patients who have diabetes. Diabetic patients are at high risk of neuropathy, which causes the patients to not have feeling in their feet. They are also at risk for poor circulation problems due to fatty deposits narrowing the blood vessels which lessen blood flow.

Dorsalis Pedis: The RN may choose the dorsalis pedis pulse site to assess the circulation to the feet, it helps determine if there is adequate blood flow to the feet and toes of the patient