

Vital Signs

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Dehvin Shumate

Temporal: easy to access for infants or when radial pulse is difficult to locate.

Carotid: quick to access during emergency situations, like cardiac arrest, to assess for life signs, also used for CPR.

Brachial: easy to locate and use especially for blood pressure measurements.

Apical: used when a patient may have or has an irregular heart beat.

Radial: used for convenience, nurses can locate quickly and to insure blood flow is reaching the hands, routine pulse checks.

Ulnar: used to access circulation flow to the hands efficiently.

Femoral: used in emergency situations when other pulses may appear to be absent, indicates blood flow to lower extremities, and after a catheterization procedure.

Popliteal: ensures circulation flow to the lower extremities.

Posterior Tibial: ensure circulation flow to the foot.

Dorsalis Pedis: helps assess peripheral circulation, check circulation after surgery procedures, monitor patients with lower extremity traumas.