

VITAL SIGNS FOR EMERGENCY PATIENTS

	Points Possible	Points Awarded
LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS		
Determines level of responsiveness according to AVPU (both stimuli responded to and type of response)	2	
PUPILS		
Inspects both pupils at same time for equality, reactivity, size and shape	4	
SKIN		
Palpates skin for relative temperature and humidity	2	
Inspects skin or mucous membranes for color	1	
PULSE		
Measures radial pulse rate and rhythm for minimum of 30 seconds	3	
RESPIRATIONS		
Measures respiratory rate, rhythm, depth, and effort for minimum of 15 seconds without patient's knowledge	5	
BLOOD PRESSURE (PALPATION)		
Securely places BP cuff at least 1 inch above elbow crease with tubes extending from rubber bladder positioned anteriorly on arm	1	
Palpates brachial or radial pulse and maintains fingers at site	1	
Inflates cuff sufficiently beyond point at which pulse disappears (about 20-30 mmHg)	1	
Slowly deflates cuff until pulse is palpated, then fully deflates cuff	1	
BLOOD PRESSURE (AUSCULTATION)		
Securely places BP cuff at least 1 inch above elbow crease with tubes extending from rubber bladder positioned anteriorly on arm	1	
Palpates brachial pulse and maintain fingers at site	1	
Places bell of stethoscope over brachial artery	1	
Inflates cuff to approximately 200mmHg	1	
Slowly deflates cuff, listening for noises indicating systolic and diastolic readings	1	
DOCUMENTATION		
Documents vital signs, including time taken, patient position, and arm(s) BP taken on	5	
Ensures patient identification data (name, DOB) appears on documentation	2	
TOTAL	33	

CRITICAL CRITERIA

- Did not obtain accurate pulse rate per minute and rhythm
- Did not obtain accurate respiratory per minute, rhythm, depth, and effort
- Assessed respiratory rate in such a manner that it was obvious to patient
- Did not obtain accurate palpation blood pressure
- Did not obtain accurate auscultation blood pressure
- Did not document time, position of patient, and arm used for blood pressures