

VITAL SIGN ASSESSMENT

1. Level: EMT, AEMT, Paramedic, RN
2. Indications: Vital signs should be assessed on all patients and documented on the electronic Patient Care Record. The specific vitals and the frequency of assessment vary depending on the type and acuity of the patient.
 - 2.1. Emergency & Non-Emergency Patients
 - 2.1.1. Critical/unstable patients' vitals should be assessed every 5-10 minutes.
 - 2.1.2. Stable patients vitals should be assessed every 15-30 minutes
 - 2.2. Vital Signs
 - 2.2.1. Blood pressure
 - 2.2.1.1. LP 15 / ZOLL monitor
 - 2.2.1.1.1. Assessing an initial blood pressure using the cardiac monitor is an acceptable practice. A manual blood pressure should be assessed anytime a question exists regarding the accuracy of the electronic blood pressure and/or when the patient presents with hyper/hypotension (systolic < 90mmHG, > 180 mmHg or diastolic < 60 mmHg, > 120mmHg)
 - 2.2.1.1.1.1. Obtain cardiac monitoring when the patient has any complaint and the above hyper/hypotension parameters.
 - 2.2.1.2. Manual blood pressure
 - 2.2.1.2.1. Indicated anytime a question exists regarding the accuracy of the electronic blood pressure and/or when the patient presents with hyper/hypotension (systolic < 90mmHG, > 180 mmHg or diastolic < 60 mmHg, > 120 mmHg)
 - 2.2.1.2.1.1. Obtain cardiac monitoring when the patient has any complaint and the above hyper/hypotension parameters.
 - 2.2.2. Pulse rate
 - 2.2.3. Respiratory rate
 - 2.2.4. SpO2
 - 2.2.5. EtCO2
 - 2.2.6. Pain scale
 - 2.2.7. Glasgow Coma Score
 3. Procedure:
 - 3.1. Assessment of vital signs as indicated in the CORE.
 - 3.2. Reassess vital signs as indicated. A minimum of two sets of vital signs should be assessed on patients in an effort to identify trends.
 - 3.2.1. Exceptions
 - 3.2.1.1. Patients in cardiac arrest
 - 3.2.1.2. Combative patients when vital signs are unable to be accurately obtained.
 - 3.2.1.3. Anatomical abnormalities or injuries preventing the assessment of accurate vital signs (e.g. amputations, fractures, dialysis fistulas, etc.)
 - 3.3. Document the vital signs on the electronic Patient Care Record.

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Age	Pulse	Respirations	Blood Pressure
Newborn	120-160	40-60	80/40
1 year	80-140	30-40	82/44
3 years	80-120	25-30	86/50
5 years	70-115	20-25	90/52
7 years	70-115	20-25	94/54
10 years	70-115	15-20	100/60
15 years	70-90	15-20	110/64
Adult	60-80	12-20	120/80