
	Metropolitan Ambulance Service		Rural Ambulance Victoria
	Work Instruction	Measure and Record Systolic Blood Pressure by Palpation	
	Version 1 1/3/01		
	EQUIPMENT:	Sphygmomanometer, Patient	
		Number WI: 2.1.6	Sheet 1 of 1

STAGES	KEY POINTS	RATIONALE
1. Prepare patient	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Position at rest. 2. Explanation of procedure to patient. 3. Expose upper limb. 4. Ensure arm at level of heart. 	
2. Apply sphygmomanometer cuff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place cuff on arm, 2.5cm (if possible) above elbow. 2. Align bladder mark to medial aspect of arm. 3. Wrap cuff firmly around arm. 4. Secure cuff firmly into position with velcro or clip. 	
3. Locate radial pulse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Refer WI 2.1.3. 	
4. Measure pressure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Close screw valve and inflate cuff with rubber bulb. 2. Note when pulse is lost and inflate a further 20mmHg. 3. Gradually deflate cuff by opening screw valve. 4. Note pressure when radial pulse is again felt. 5. Complete deflation of cuff and remove. 	
5. Record	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To nearest 5mmHg. 	

NOTE: Blood pressure should be recorded, e.g. 120 mmHg by palpation. OR 120/P

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ACTIVITY	CRITICAL PERFORMANCE	PASS	FAIL
1. Prepare patient	1. Positions patient at rest. 2. Explains procedure. 3. Exposes upper limb. 4. Ensures arm at level of heart.
2. Apply sphygmomanometer cuff	1. Places cuff on arm 2.5cm above elbow. 2. Aligns bladder mark to medial aspect of arm. 3. Wraps cuff firmly around arm. 4. Secures cuff firmly.
3. Locate radial pulse	1. Refer WI 2.1.3.
4. Measure pressure	1. Closes screw valve and inflates cuff with rubber bulb. 2. Notes when pulse is lost and inflates a further 20mmHg. 3. Deflates cuff by slowly opening screw valve. 4. Notes pressure when radial pulse is again felt. 5. Removes deflation and removes cuff.
5. Record	1. Records to nearest 5mmHg. 2. Accuracy: plus or minus 5mmHg.

CANDIDATES NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Comments:

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Instructor:
(please
print)

Satisfactory
practical
performance

Unsatisfactory
practical
performance