


Clinical Learning Guide

Measuring Radial Pulse

STEP/TASK	AP	IP	NP
Getting ready			
• Prepare equipment: Watch or clock with a counter for seconds.			
• Introduce yourself to the patient, Explain the procedure to the patient.			
• Assist the patient to pronate and slightly fix the forearm.			
procedure			
1. Locate the radial artery just medial to the distal radius and proximal to the patient's wrist on the thumb side.			
2. Place the tips of the index, middle & ring fingers just proximal to the patient's wrist on the thumb side, orienting them over the vessel.			
3. Push lightly at first, gradually adding pressure till you feel the pulse.			
4. Check for regularity, if regular count the pulse rate for 15 seconds and multiply by 4 and if irregular, count for 3 min & divide by 3.			
Post procedure tasks			
1. Wash the hands.			
2. Discuss the findings with the patient.			
3. Record the results as beats / minute and comment on regularity.			
			

AP = Adequately Performed
 IP = Inadequately Performed
 NP = Not Performed