

Chapter 24: Measuring Height, Weight, and Vital Signs

Measuring the Pulse and Oxygen Concentration Using a Pulse Oximeter			
		Name:	
		Date:	
<i>Remember to promote:</i>			
Dignity • Independence • Individualized Care • Preferences • Privacy • Safety			
Pre-Procedure	S	U	Comments
1. Identify the client, according to employer policy.			
2. Explain the procedure to the client.			
3. Perform hand hygiene.			
4. Provide for privacy.			
5. Ensure the client does not have nail polish or acrylic nail enhancements.			
Procedure	S	U	
6. Have the client sit or lie down.			
7. Turn the pulse oximeter unit on. Clip the pulse oximeter over the client's index finger with the sensor centred over the client's fingernail (see FIGURE 24.18).			
8. Observe both the pulse reading (indicated in beats per minute, or bpm) and the client's oxygen level (indicated in percentage).			
Post-Procedure	S	U	Comments
9. Provide for safety and comfort.			
10. Place the call bell within reach.*			
11. Remove privacy measures if used.			
12. Perform hand hygiene.			
Report and Record the pulse rate and the blood concentration level, the time of day you took these, and your observations, according to employer policy. You need to know the client's normal pulse rate, as you need to report a higher or lower rate immediately. <i>Any blood concentration level reading below 95% should be reported to the supervisor.</i>			

**Steps marked with an asterisk may not apply in community settings.*