

OBTAIN VITAL SIGNS: PULSE

For use of this form see TC 8-800; the proponent agency is TRADOC.

TABLES: I, IV

REFERENCES: STP 8-68W13-SM-TG, Task: 081-831-0011, Measure a Patient's Pulse; Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Wounded.

1. Soldier (*Last Name, First Name, MI*)

2. Date (YYYYMMDD)

CONDITIONS: Given a trauma or medical casualty requiring assessment and management in a clinical environment or field setting. You are not in a CBRN environment.
A critical skill in the thorough assessment and management of any casualty is the ability to quickly and accurately obtain a set of vital signs. The Soldier Medic must be able to accurately measure a casualty's pulse, respirations, blood pressure, and oxygen saturation level using the appropriate techniques and equipment.

STANDARDS: Perform all measures IAW Emergency Care and Transportation of the Sick and Injured. You must score at least 70% (*8 of 11 steps*) and not miss any critical (*) elements on the skill sheet.

SAFETY:

- o Risk Assessment: Low. All bodily fluids should be considered potentially infectious; always observe body substance isolation (*BSI*).
- o Precautions: Wear gloves and eye protection as a minimal standard of protection.
- o Environmental: None.

NOTE: Soldier Medics must be observed. (*Evaluator to Soldier Medic ratio is 1:6*).

TEST SCENARIO:

While responding to an emergency call, you encounter a casualty with a medical illness or trauma-related injury. During your assessment and management of this casualty, you must obtain a baseline set of vital signs. You must demonstrate the techniques and procedures for measuring a pulse; you have been provided the necessary medical equipment.

3. Evaluator's Comments and After-Test Recommendations:

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**OBTAIN VITAL SIGNS: PULSE
GRADING SHEET**

TASK	COMPLETED					
	1ST		2ND		3RD	
	P	F	P	F	P	F
4.						
a. * Took/verbalized body substance isolation (BSI) precautions.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
b. Explained the procedure to the casualty, if necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
c. Positioned the casualty, seated or lying supine.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
d. Located the radial pulse point; alternately, located the carotid pulse.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
e. Palpated the radial pulse using the tips of their index and middle fingers being careful not to press hard enough to impede the pulse.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
f. Obtained the casualty's pulse reading. Measured the radial pulse for 30 seconds and multiplied times two. EVALUATOR: If the casualty is demonstrating a weak or irregular pulse, the Soldier Medic must measure the pulse for a full 60 seconds.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
g. * Evaluated the pulse rhythm (<i>regular, irregular</i>).	<input type="checkbox"/>					
h. * Evaluated the pulse strength (<i>strong, bounding, weak</i>).	<input type="checkbox"/>					
i. * Documented the pulse rate, rhythm, and strength and the time obtained on the appropriate medical form.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
j. Reported any abnormal pulse readings.	<input type="checkbox"/>					
k. * Measured the casualty's pulse within 4 beats/min.	<input type="checkbox"/>					

* CRITICAL ELEMENTS

**OBTAIN VITAL SIGNS: PULSE
EVALUATOR GUIDELINES AND INSTRUCTIONS**

Inform the Soldier Medic of the CONDITIONS and STANDARDS as stated on this form.
Provide an optional scenario, if appropriate. This scenario should reinforce the unique or particular needs of the unit.
Allow sufficient time for the Soldier Medic to extract information from the scenario.
Provide each evaluator with the grading sheet.
Ensure the Soldier Medic has all required materials.
Explain how the exercise is graded.

Resource Requirements:

Evaluator: Grading sheet and applicable scenario.

Soldier Medic: Applicable scenario, watch.

Additional Scoring Guidelines:

Documented the pulse rate, rhythm, and strength and the time obtained on the appropriate medical form.

Example: P-64, regular and strong.

NOTE: The normal pulse rate (*at rest*) for an adult is 60-100 beats/min.