

VITAL SIGNS GRADING CRITERIA

[STATION TIME 5 MINUTES]

*1. Calculates and reports pulse

- a. Avoids using thumb
- b. Reports rate within 10% of Examiner=s value
- c. Describes quality (strong, weak, thready, etc.)
- d. Describes regularity (regular or irregular)

2 = Performs above criteria

1 = Fails to report Ac@ and/or Ad@

0 = Omits step

Uses thumb

Reports value that is in error greater than 10% from Examiner=s value

*2. Calculates and reports respiratory rate

- a. Reports rate within plus or minus two (2) of Examiner=s value
- b. Describes quality (shallow, labored, etc.)
- c. Describes regularity (regular or irregular)

2 = Performs above criteria

1 = Fails to report Ab@ and/or Ac@

Reports rate within three (3) of Examiner=s value

0 = Omits step

Reports rate that is in error greater than three (3) from Examiner=s value.

NOTE: Examiner shall direct candidate to palpate blood pressure before auscultating blood pressure.

*3. Palpates and reports systolic blood

- a. Uses brachial or radial pulse
- b. Locates pulse before cuff inflation
- c. Reports palpated systolic within 10 mm Hg of Examiner=s palpated value
- d. Deflates cuff completely prior to reinflation (if 2nd or 3rd attempt performed)

2 = Performs above criteria

1 = Reports value differing 11-16 mm Hg from Examiner=s palpated value

Omits Aa@, Ab@ and/or Ad@

0 = Omits step

Reports value that is in error greater than 16 mm Hg from Examiner=s palpated value

NOTE: Examiner shall NOT palpate at the same time as the candidate

*4. Auscultates and reports auscultated blood pressure

- a. Systolic over diastolic
- b. Reports each value within 8 mm Hg of Examiner=s values
- c. Deflates cuff completely prior to reinflation (If 2nd or 3rd attempt performed)

2 = Performs above criteria

1 = Reports any value differing 9-12 mm Hg from Examiner=s value

Omits Ac@

0 = Omits step

Requires more than 3 attempts

Reports any value that is in error greater than 12 mm Hg from Examiner=s values

Reports diastolic over systolic