

Pulse oximetry procedure

Action	Rationale
Explain procedure; obtain and record verbal consent	To ensure that the service user/resident is aware and consents to the procedure
Wash/use sanitizer on your hands	To avoid cross infection and contamination in line with infection control policies.
Select the appropriate probe site eg fingertip/earlobe, considering if the fingertip is warm and has a good enough blood supply eg pink/warm	To obtain the most accurate result.
Ensure the fingertip is clear of nail polish/grease/dirt and that the probe site is warm and pink.	To ensure that you have an accurate result as nail polish or cold extremities can result in low or absent readings
Turn oximeter on, look that it is working before you place on the probe site.	This check is to make sure that the batteries and the pulse oximeter is in good working order. Replace batteries if necessary.
Apply probe and check that it is reading, you will see the pulse indicator moving. Allow several seconds for the device to reach optimum results.	To ensure that you get an accurate reading.
Wash/use sanitizer on hands.	To avoid cross infection and contamination between staff/residents in line with infection control.
Document results in the service user's/resident's records/integrated care records immediately.	To avoid error and communicate safe accurate readings recorded for the carer organisation ready to relay to the requesting clinician.
Report the results to the appropriate Health Care Professional as soon as possible via their agreed method eg. Email, phone or in-person visiting.	To ensure that the resident/service user receives prompt, appropriate care and treatment.
Clean the pulse oximeter with anti-bacterial/sterile wipes.	To prevent any spread of infection and to ensure that the device is ready and safe to use when next needed.