

**#18 - ASSESSING APICAL PULSE****(Partner Check-Off)**

**I acknowledge I have physically practiced and successfully learned the following skill(s):**

**Student:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

|   | <b>P1</b> | <b>P2</b> | <b>P3</b> | <b>Comments</b> |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. Verified health care provider's orders.  |           |           |           |                 |
| 2. Gathered necessary equipment and supplies.   |           |           |           |                 |
| 3. Performed hand hygiene.  |           |           |           |                 |
| 4. Provided patient's privacy.  |           |           |           |                 |
| 5. Introduced self to patient and family.   |           |           |           |                 |
| 6. Identified patient using two identifiers.  |           |           |           |                 |
| 7. Assessed for factors that can affect apical pulse rate and rhythm.   |           |           |           |                 |
| 8. Used gloves when necessary.  |           |           |           |                 |
| 9. Helped patient into appropriate position.  |           |           |           |                 |
| 10. Located PMI properly.   |           |           |           |                 |
| 11. Slid fingers down to ICS, then to the fifth intercostals space, then over to the left midclavicular line. |           |           |           |                 |
| 12. Felt PMI as a light tap reflecting apex of the heart.   |           |           |           |                 |
| 13. Located PMI if not where expected.  |           |           |           |                 |
| 14. Warmed diaphragm of stethoscope in palm of hand, cleaned with alcohol, and allowed to dry.                |           |           |           |                 |
| 15. Place the diaphragm over the PMI, and auscultate for the normal S <sub>1</sub> and S <sub>2</sub> sounds. |           |           |           |                 |
| 16. Looked at watch once sounds were heard with regularity, and took pulse properly.                          |           |           |           |                 |
| 17. Replaced patient's gown and bed linen, helped patient to comfortable                                      |           |           |           |                 |

position, and discussed findings as appropriate.

- 18. Cleaned earpieces and diaphragm with alcohol after each use, and discarded swab appropriately.
- 19. Placed personal items within reach.
- 20. Placed call light within reach, and ensured patient knew how to use it.
- 21. Raised top side rails and lowered bed to ensure patient safety.
- 22. Disposed of used supplies and equipment, and left patient's room tidy.
- 23. Removed and disposed of gloves when worn, and performed hand hygiene.
- 24. Compared patient's apical pulse rate and rhythm with baseline and acceptable range.
- 25. Documented and reported patient's response and outcomes.

**S** = Satisfactory    **U** = Unsatisfactory    **NP** = Not Performed    \* = Must Perform to Pass

*By signing below I acknowledge that I witnessed the skill performed and the student successfully passed the skill.*

Practice 1: Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Practice 2: Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

FINAL Student Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_