



Oxygen Saturation (Pulse Oximetry)

Quicksheet

1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Verify correct patient using two identifiers.
3. Position patient comfortably.
4. Instruct patient to breathe normally. If finger is the monitoring site, support lower arm.
5. If using the finger, remove fingernail polish from digit with acetone or polish remover.
6. Attach sensor to monitoring site. Instruct patient that clip-on probe will feel like a clothespin on the finger but will not hurt.
7. Once sensor is in place, turn on oximeter by activating power.
8. Leave sensor in place until oximeter readout reaches constant value and pulse display reaches full strength during each cardiac cycle.
9. If monitoring oxygen saturation continuously, verify SpO₂ alarm limits preset by the manufacturer are at a low of 85% and a high of 100%.
10. If intermittent or spot-checking SpO₂, remove probe, and turn oximeter power off. Store sensor in appropriate location.
11. Discuss findings with patient as needed and record findings.
12. Assist patient in returning to comfortable position.
13. Perform hand hygiene.
14. Document the procedure in the patient's record.

Excerpted and adapted from Perry AG, Potter PA: *Clinical nursing skills & techniques*, ed 7, St. Louis, 2010, Mosby.

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