

SECTION: NURSING

POLICY#: 423 Pulse Oximeter

POLICY: Pulse oximeter screening will be available for clients.

PROCEDURE:

1. Clients will be individually assessed for symptoms and other pertinent information to determine need of pulse oximeter screening.
2. Respironics finger pulse oximeter will be used according to manufacturer guidelines.
3. Insert client's finger into the pulse oximeter until the fingertip touches the built-in stop guide, centering the finger on the unit.
4. Be aware of conditions that may alter accuracy of readings such as:
 - a. Excessive or rapid movements of finger.
 - b. Nail polish may reduce light transmission
 - c. Excess pressure on unit during measurements
5. Allow system to stabilize by observing at least 10 seconds of continuous green colored perfusion 0 display pulses before relying on the displayed digital values.
6. If SpO₂ values are below 90, refer to physician for evaluation.
7. Document all readings in client's chart follow the policy in client's EMR.