







Taking a Radial Pulse

- Measured at radial artery in wrist by thumb.
- Place palm of hand down with arm on flat surface.
- Locate pulse on thumb side of wrist using your first three fingers.
- Don't use your thumb- it has a pulse.
- Exert slight pressure, and count for one minute.

The Apical Pulse

- Measure counting the heart contractions.
- Stethoscope is placed over apex of heart. The apex is found on the left side of the chest between the fifth and sixth ribs.
- Located just below left nipple in men. Under the left breast in women.
- Listen for two sounds LUB DUB.
- The louder sound LUB is what you count.
- Count for one full minute.



Apical Pulse Rates are Checked



- Whenever a pulse deficit exists.
- Before administering drugs that can alter heart rate /rhythm.
- In children whose rates are difficult to count at radial.
- If radial pulse is irregular.
- Whenever uncertainty exists.
- On infants.

Counting Apical/Radial Pulse pulse deficit

- When heart is too weak to send blood to arteries.
- The difference between the apical pulse and the radial pulse.
- Nurse counts apical pulse.
- You count radial pulse.
- Apical pulse=110
- Radial pulse=80 Pulse deficit=30


