

**VITAL SIGNS - TEMPERATURE**

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

	Points Possible	Points Earned
<b>EXAMINATION STEPS AND PROCEDURES</b>		
Takes or verbalizes body substance isolation precautions	1	
<b>Procedure:</b>		
Determine appropriate method of obtaining temperature based upon patient's age and level of responsiveness.	1	
<b>Using a Mercury-Glass Thermometer:</b>		
1) Examine thermometer to verify that it is the correct type for the measuring site: oral or rectal	1	
2) Examine thermometer to determine pre-existing reading	1	
<b>If mercury column indicates a temperature at or above 95°F:</b>		
1) Hold thermometer between thumb and index finger	1	
2) Sharply swing thermometer down in an arc like manner using a rotational wrist motion	1	
3) Repeat until mercury column has been forced below the 95°F point on the scale	1	
If mercury column indicates a temperature at or below 95°F, begin measuring at appropriate location.	1	
<b>Rectal Temperature:</b>		
Apply water-soluble jelly to the tip of the thermometer	1	
Expose patient's buttocks. Place infants prone to limit struggling. Place unresponsive adults in a lateral position.	1	
Spread the buttocks, visualize the anus	1	
Insert mercury bulb through the anus into the rectum	1	
Insert thermometer such that it is approximately parallel to the spine	1	
Insert the thermometer such that the mercury reservoir bulb is just beyond the anal opening. (approximately ½ an inch.) Do not force the thermometer against any resistance.	1	
Use one hand to stabilize the patient and the other hand to hold the thermometer	1	
Keep thermometer in place for at least three (3) minutes	1	
Remove thermometer and wipe away any residual material from the thermometer and anus	1	
Read oral thermometer and record temperature accurate to the 0.1 degree. Identify location as rectal	1	

VITAL SIGNS – TEMPERATURE *continued*

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

	Points Possible	Points Earned
<b>EXAMINATION STEPS AND PROCEDURES</b>		
<b>Oral Temperature:</b>		
Place thermometer into patient’s mouth. Ensure that mercury bulb is under tongue.	1	
Instruct patient to keep mouth closed, breathe through nose, not to bite thermometer	1	
Keep thermometer in place for at least three minutes	1	
Remove thermometer, read and record temperature within 0.1 degree. Identify location as oral	1	
<b>Axillary Temperature:</b>		
Remove patient’s shirt or open upper buttons of top garment	1	
Place thermometer into axilla. Ensure that the mercury bulb is in contact with skin of both the arm and the chest wall.	1	
Ensure that patient holds arm against chest wall. Keep thermometer in place for at least six minutes.	1	
Remove thermometer, read and record temperature within 0.1 degree. Identify location as axillary.	1	
<b>Electronic Probe Thermometer:</b>		
Ensure you are using the correct probe for intended site	1	
Remove probe from storage sheath	1	
Cover probe with isolation cover per manufacture’s recommendations	1	
Activate electronic thermometer	1	
Place probe into oral, rectal, or axillary sampling site, following the same procedures as for a mercury-glass thermometer	1	
Leave probe in place until electronic thermometer has indicated end of measuring time	1	
Read and record temperature within 0.1 degree. Identify site where temperature was sampled	1	
<b>Tympanic Temperature:</b>		
Remove infrared sensor from storage holder	1	
Cover tip of sensor with protective cover per manufacture’s recommendations	1	
Retract pinna of ear to expose ear canal	1	
Insert end of sensor into ear canal, aiming tip toward ear drum. (Point tip in direction of nose)	1	
Hold sensor in place until unit has indicated end of sampling time	1	
Read and record temperature with in 0.1 degree. Identify location as tympanic	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	

*Minimum Points: 31*

VITAL SIGNS – TEMPERATURE *continued*

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NOTES
Rectal temperatures should only be done on infants and unresponsive adults.
Maintain patient's modesty during rectal temperature. Avoid inference of impropriety.
Do not adjust obtained mature temp in an effort to calculate temperature at another site. Record accurate findings and exact site where taken. Mercury thermometers take time to stabilize at correct reading. Do not remove and record temperature before optimal time has passed

**CRITICAL CRITERIA**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Did not take or verbalize body substance isolation precautions
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did not properly follow the procedure for obtaining the selected temperature reading
- \_\_\_\_\_ Did not document temperature reading and the correct location obtained

\_\_\_\_\_ PASS \_\_\_\_\_ FAIL

Instructor \_\_\_\_\_