OPTIONS northwest

Personal Support Services

POLICY: R-VI-5
DEPARTMENT: Personal Support Services
CATEGORY: Health and Well-being - Specialized Procedures
EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2013
SUPERSEDES VERSION DATED: May 2008

Policy & Procedure Manual

PULSE – R-VI-5

POLICY:

Pulse shall be noted and recorded on admission and when deemed necessary when there is a significant change in a client's condition.

PURPOSE:

To obtain a baseline for client's normal pulse.

To assist in evaluating a client's condition when monitoring vital signs.

PROCEDURE:

* If temperature is to be taken, check pulse rate first – crying/anxiety may affect pulse.

** Chosen areas – radial (wrist), temple, neck – see Appendix A

1. Explain procedure to client in a reassuring manner.
2. Find pulse in chosen area.
3. Count pulsations for 30 seconds and double that number.
4. Chart rate in client's casebook, noting quality, regularity and activity during assessment. For pulse taken on admission, ensure results are entered on the Kardex.

RECOMMENDED BY: Director, Personal Support Services **APPENDICES:** 1

OPERATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY: Administration, Personal Support Services
Administration, Personal Support Services

ORIGINAL POLICY DATE: April 1987

AUTHORIZED BY: Executive Director **SIGNATURE:** ____________

Cardiovascular

Arterial Supply - Anterior View