

VITAL SIGNS VOCABULARY

TEMPERATURE

tympanic or aural (ear)
oral (mouth)
axillary (arm pit)
Celsius (0° freezing)
Fahrenheit (32° freezing)
febrile (having fever)
mucosa (membrane lining)

RESPIRATION

apnea (period without breathing)
dyspnea (difficult breathing)
orthopnea (difficulty breathing unless sitting or standing)
tachypnea (fast breathing- above 24/min)
bradypnea (slow breathing- less than 10/minute)
Cheyne-Stokes (periods of apnea followed by gradually increasing respiration)
hyperventilation
depth
 shallow breathing (using only the top of lungs)
 normal
 deep breathing

PULSE

apical (chest)
brachial (arm)
carotid (neck)
radial (wrist)
rhythm:
 dysrhythmia/arrhythmia (irregular rhythm)
strength:
 thready (weak, irregular)
 bounding (strong, pounding)
rate:
 brady- slow
 tachy- fast
 bradycardia (slow heartbeat)
 tachycardia (fast heartbeat)

BLOOD PRESSURE

systolic (contracted)
diastolic (relaxed)
hypertension (high BP)
hypotension (low BP)
sphygmomanometer
 aneroid
 mercury
stethoscope
 bell
 diaphragm

hyper- above, high
hypo- under, low