Procedure Checklists for Craven and Hirnle's Fundamentals of Nursing: Human Health and Function, 6th edition

Name _____ Date _____

Unit _____ Position _____

Instructor/Evaluator: _____ Position _____

Monitoring With Pulse Oximetry

Goal: To monitor arterial oxygen saturation (SaO_2) noninvasively; to detect clinical hypoxemia promptly; to assess client's tolerance to tapering of oxygen therapy or activity.

Excellent	Satisfactory	Needs Practice		Comments
_____	_____	_____	1. Select appropriate type of sensor. A wide variety of sensors are available in sizes for neonates, infants, children, and adults. In addition, there are clip-on, adhesive, and disposable sensors. To select the appropriate sensor, consider the client's weight, activity level, if infection control is a concern, tape allergies, and anticipated duration of monitoring.	
_____	_____	_____	2. Explain purpose of procedure to client and family.	
_____	_____	_____	3. Instruct client to breathe normally.	
_____	_____	_____	4. Select appropriate site to place sensor. Avoid using lower extremities that may have compromised circulation, or extremities receiving infusions or other invasive monitoring. If client has poor tissue perfusion due to peripheral vascular disease or is receiving vasoconstrictor medications, a nasal sensor or forehead sensor may be considered.	
_____	_____	_____	5. Remove nail polish or acrylic nail from digit to be used.	
_____	_____	_____	6. Attach sensor probe and connect it to the pulse oximeter. Make sure the photosensors are accurately aligned.	
_____	_____	_____	7. Watch for pulse-sensing bar on face of oximeter to fluctuate with each pulsation and reflect pulse strength. Double-check machine pulsations with client's radial or apical pulse.	
_____	_____	_____	8. If continuous pulse oximetry is desired, set the alarm limits on the monitor to reflect the high and low oxygen saturation and pulse rates. Ensure that the alarms are audible before leaving the client. Inspect the sensor site every 4 hours for tissue irritation or pressure from the sensor.	
_____	_____	_____	9. Read saturation on monitor and document as appropriate with all relevant information on client's chart. Report SaO_2 less than 93% to physician.	