

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES  
NURSING DELEGATION PROCEDURE

**PROTOCOL: PULSE OXIMETER OXYGEN SATURATION MEASUREMENT**

**I. Purpose:** Non-invasive monitoring of the oxygen saturation of arterial blood.

**II. Responsibility:**

A. Training: Training will be conducted by a licensed RN or an LPN working under the direction of an RN who holds a current license in Connecticut.

B. Performance:

1. Direct care staff who have completed:
  - a. baseline competency training checklist of DDS
  - b. procedure task specific training
2. Trained staff will follow individual procedural guidelines including notifying the licensed nurse as indicated

C. Monitoring:

1. The delegating RN or an LPN working under the direction of an RN
2. Trained staff performing the task under the clinical direction of the licensed nurse will notify the nurse of issues and/or outcomes as directed by the nurse.

D. Documentation:

1. Individuals who perform the tasks will record all pertinent information as instructed by the RN
2. RN will ensure agency compliance with required documentation.

**III. Training to Include:**

A. Initial: overview of the procedure, its purpose. Demonstration of techniques by RN and return demonstration by the student.

B. Documentation of Training and Monitoring:

1. Training: RN completes training record of staff on “DDS Nursing Delegation Procedure Performance Evaluation Form”.
2. Monitoring: RN completes DDS “Nursing Delegation Task Competency Monitoring Form”

C. Frequency of Monitoring:

1. Staff will be monitored in their proficiency at this skill as determined by the RN, but not to exceed 12 months.

**IV. Related Knowledge:**

- A. Background of the disease
- B. Medical history of the person

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**PROCEDURE: OXYGEN Saturation Measurement**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Baseline pulse ox:: \_\_\_\_\_

Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Initial Physician's Order Date: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Dates Renewed: \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ (in pencil)

Physician's Order (if applicable):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I. Diagnosis:** \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Purpose of Procedure** (why person needs procedure) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Delegating RN

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**III. Procedure**

Task	Rationale
<b>A. Gather Equipment:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pulse oximeter</li> <li>2. Alcohol wipe</li> <li>3. Nail polish removed, if indicated</li> <li>4. Clean gauze</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needed to perform testing</li> </ul>
<b>B. Perform Task:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wash hands</li> <li>2. Explain procedure to individual</li> <li>3. Prepare site</li> <li>4. Use alcohol wipe to gently cleanse site</li> <li>5. Remove nail polish from finger, if needed</li> <li>6. Apply sensor unit</li> <li>7. Place LED/photo detector unit onto chosen site</li> <li>8. Ensure proper alignment. The LED/sensors should be directly opposite each other.</li> <li>9. Turn the pulse oximeter to the ON position</li> <li>10. Listen for beep and note bar of light on front of pulse oximeter.</li> <li>11. Note reading on the display area.</li> <li>12. Report reading to nurse as per established parameters</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces transfer of microorganisms</li> <li>• Decreases anxiety and facilitates cooperation</li> <li>• Ensures that area is clean &amp; dry</li> <li>• Colored nail polish may interfere with pulse oximetry reading</li> <li>• Sensors that are not properly aligned will not yield an accurate reading</li> <li>• The emitting sensors will transmit red and infrared light through the tissue</li> <li>• Oxygen saturation will be measured by the data received from these units</li> <li>• Each beep indicates a pulse detected by the pulse oximeter</li> <li>• A desired reading would be between 90% and 100%</li> </ul>
<b>C. Other:</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wash hands</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To prevent spread of infection</li> </ul>
<b>D. Clean Equipment</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Utilize alcohol wipe or saturate clean gauze with alcohol</li> <li>2. Wipe all surfaces of sensor and cable</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduces the transfer of microorganisms</li> </ul>

3. Dry all surfaces with clean gauze	
<b>E. Documentation</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Date and time</li> <li>2. Location of sensor</li> <li>3. Percentage of oxygen saturation</li> <li>4. Percentage of oxygen (or room air) client is receiving</li> <li>5. Any reporting/interventions that took place</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No task is completed until documentation &amp; reporting occurs</li> </ul>

**PLEASE NOTE: NO TASK IS CONSIDERED COMPLETED UNTIL DOCUMENTATION AND REQUIRED REPORTING OCCURS. ANY CHANGE OR VARIATION FROM THE INDIVIDUAL'S BASELINE SHOULD BE REPORTED PROMPTLY TO THE NURSE.**