



BACK TO BASICS

Neonatal Blood Pressure Measurement

WHY

- Accurate blood pressure measurement is key to identifying and managing health conditions
- Inaccurate blood pressure measurement can lead to inappropriate management and treatment
- Timely treatment of abnormal blood pressures can prevent significant morbidity or mortality
- Hypotension treatment in the neonate (volume expanders and vasopressor medications) has long-term effects. It is crucial that the diagnosis of hypotension is accurate and that additional parameters, including capillary refill time, heart rate, pulses, and perfusion, are considered before treatment is initiated.

HOW

- Select the correct size of blood pressure cuff. Adhere to suggested practice recommendations, including measuring the limb circumference.
- Use the same arm, same cuff, and same position
- Have the neonate remain undisturbed for 20 minutes prior to measurement and support a quiet state during measurement
- Use right upper arm measurement with the neonate in the supine position as it gives the most accurate blood pressure reflection
- Abnormal blood pressure should be repeated
- Consider blood pressure correlation with chronological and gestational age
- Consider cuff blood pressure measurement correlation with invasive blood pressure measurement



COMMUNICATION

- Document blood pressure measurement and which extremity measurement was taken on
- Notify the provider of abnormal blood pressure reading
- Follow individual unit policy guidelines and neonatal clinical care guidelines based on patient acuity