

Unit Duration	Course	Health Service Assistant	Unit Name	Vital Signs
2 Weeks	Unit Description	The healthcare team is able to plan resident care based on reliable measurements of vital signs.	Learning Intention	We will take vital signs and make plans for residents based on those vital signs.
	Enduring Understanding/ Big Ideas	Accurate measurement of resident vital signs allows the health care team to plan the care of residents.	Unit Essential Question(s)	How are blood pressures, respiration rates, temperatures, pulse rates, and oxygen levels taken? What do these results tell us about our residents?
Success Criteria		I can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate proper technique for taking blood pressures. • Differentiate between systolic and diastolic blood pressure. • Identify the normal range for systolic blood pressure. • Identify the normal range for diastolic blood pressure. • Identify equipment used to take blood pressure. • Identify possible resident/patient status based on BP reading. • Identify age-related changes affecting the cardiovascular system. • Demonstrate proper technique for taking temperatures, pulse, and respiration rate. • Identify age-related changes affecting the respiratory system. • Identify the normal range of body temperature for elderly persons. • Identify normal pulse range for the elderly adult. • Identify possible resident/patient status based on these readings. • Identify types of thermometers. • Describe the length of time used for each type of thermometer. • List five locations at which a pulse can be checked. 		

Priority Standards	<p><u>NCHSE Standards:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 10.1 Technical Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10.1.1 Demonstrate procedures for measuring and recording vital signs including the normal ranges.
Supporting Standards	<p><u>NCHSE Standards:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1.3 Medical Mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1.3.1 Demonstrate competency using basic math skills and mathematical conversions as they relate to healthcare. ● 1.3.2 Demonstrate the ability to analyze diagrams, charts, graphs, and tables to interpret healthcare results. ● 1.3.3 Demonstrate use of the 24-hour clock/military time. ● 2.2 Medical Terminology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2.2.1 Use common roots, prefixes, and suffixes to communicate information. ○ 2.2.2 Interpret common medical abbreviations to communicate information. ● 2.3 Written Communication Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2.3.1 Use proper elements of written and electronic communication (spelling, grammar, and formatting).
Unit Vocabulary	<p>arteriosclerosis, atherosclerosis, axilla, body temperature, Cheyne-Stokes, Congestive heart failure (CHF), emphysema, myocardial infarction (MI), hypertension, hypotension, pneumonia, pulse, pulse rate, respirations, orthostatic hypotension, tuberculosis (TB), vital signs, blood pressure, diastolic pressure, mm Hg, sphygmomanometer, stethoscope, systolic pressure.</p>
Learning Experiences	<p>Pulse and Respirations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Perform hand hygiene. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1. Cover all surfaces of hands with hand sanitizer. 1.2. Rub hands together until hands are dry. 2. Explain procedure to residents. 3. Locate the radial pulse by placing tips of fingers on the thumb side of the resident's wrist. 4. Count pulse for a full minute (60 seconds) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4.1. Tell the RN Test Observer when you start counting and tell her/him when you stop counting. 5. Count respirations for a full minute (60 seconds). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5.1. Tell the RN Test Observer when you start counting and tell her/him when you stop counting 6. Record pulse rate on the previously signed recording form. 7. Candidate's recorded pulse rate is within 4 beats of RN Test Observer's recorded pulse rate.

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	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Record respirations on the previously signed recording form. 9. Candidate's recorded respiratory rate is within 2 breaths of the RN Test Observer's recorded respiratory rate. 10. Place a call light or signaling device within easy reach of the resident. 11. Maintain respectful, courteous interpersonal interactions at all times. 12. Perform hand hygiene. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12.1. Cover all surfaces of hands with hand sanitizer. 12.2. Rub hands together until hands are dry.
Suggested Resources	<p><u>Mosby's Textbook for Nursing Assistants</u> Chapters 33, 43, 44; <u>Diversified Health Occupations</u>, Chapter 16, , Medcom Trainex Video Series, # 15</p>
Unit Assessment(s)	Unit 10 Exam