

Appendix C

Procedures for Monitoring Pulse Oximetry

1. Connect the sensor lead to the monitor and clip it onto a fingertip or toe. Disposable sensors may be attached to ear or nose. In infants, disposable sensors may be attached to foot or hand. Do not place the sensor on the extremity used to obtain blood pressures. Avoid injured areas.
2. Turn the device on. After a few seconds the device should display the SPO₂ and heart rate. Make sure the heart rate displayed on the monitor is the same as the palpated pulse.
3. If you get a poor signal or “trouble” indicator, try repositioning the sensor on the finger or moving it to another area. Check for nail polish and remove with acetone wipes if necessary. Try to reduce movement of the probe and ambient light.
4. Once you get an accurate reading, check the oximeter reading every 5 minutes. A convenient time to record pulse oximetry is with the vital signs.