



OSCE Checklist: Measuring Basic Observations

Introduction		
1	Wash your hands and don PPE if appropriate	
2	Introduce yourself to the patient including your name and role	
3	Confirm the patient's name and date of birth	
4	Briefly explain what the procedure will involve using patient-friendly language	
5	Gain consent to proceed with recording observations	
6	Ask if the patient has any pain before proceeding	
7	Gather equipment	
Heart rate (HR)		
8	Palpate the radial pulse	
9	Assess heart rate and rhythm	
Respiratory rate (RR)		
10	Whilst still palpating the radial pulse (but no longer counting it), assess the patient's respiratory rate	
Oxygen saturation (SpO ₂)		
11	Select an appropriate site for the pulse oximeter. If using the fingernail, ensure there is no nail varnish or dirt covering the nail.	
12	Switch on the pulse oximeter	
13	Place the pulse oximeter over the fingernail	
14	Wait for the oxygen saturation level to appear and note the reading	
Blood pressure (BP)		
15	Ensure the cuff size appears appropriate	
16	Wrap the cuff around the patient's upper arm	
17	Line up the cuff marker with the brachial artery slightly medial to the biceps brachii tendon	
18	Palpate the radial pulse	
19	Inflate the cuff until you can no longer feel this pulse	
20	Note the reading on the sphygmomanometer. This is a rough estimate of the systolic blood pressure.	
21	Place your stethoscope's diaphragm over the brachial artery	
22	Re-inflate the cuff to 20 - 30 mmHg above your approximate systolic blood pressure measured earlier	
23	Begin to slowly deflate the cuff at around 2-3 mmHg per second	
24	Listen carefully, you will begin to hear a thumping pulsatile noise known as the 1st Korotokoff sound. The pressure at which this 1st sound is heard is the systolic blood pressure.	

25	Continue to deflate the cuff, continuing to listen until the sounds completely disappear. The point at which you hear the last sound is referred to as the 5th Korotkoff sound. This is the diastolic blood pressure.	
Level of consciousness		
26	Assess the level of consciousness using the ACVPU scale	
Temperature		
27	Ensure the tympanic thermometer is switched on, clean and in good working order	
28	Place a disposable cover over the probe end	
29	Place the probe into the ear canal and gently advance until the probe seals the opening of the ear canal	
30	Record the tympanic temperature	
31	Remove and dispose of the tympanic thermometer cover	
Recording observations on a NEWS2 chart		
32	The measured observations should be recorded on a NEWS2 chart and the total NEWS2 score calculated	
To complete the assessment...		
33	Explain to the patient that the assessment is now complete	
34	Thank the patient for their time	
35	Dispose of PPE appropriately and wash your hands	
36	Summarise your findings and NEWS2 score	

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