

DO'S & DON'TS OF PULSE OXIMETRY



DO'S



Screen while the newborn is awake and calm, if possible. Use a new, clean sensor for each infant.



Make sure that the skin is clean and dry before placing the sensor on the newborn. It is okay to screen if the baby is jaundiced.



Use the correct sites for screening: right hand and either foot.



Align the emitter with the detector.



Use confidence indicators to ensure an accurate reading.

DON'TS



Use an adult pulse oximetry clip to screen an infant.



Attempt to obtain a reading on the same extremity where the blood pressure cuff has been placed.



Perform the screen in bright or infrared light. It is okay to cover the sensor with a blanket to block the light in order to ensure accuracy.



Use tape or your own hand to hold the sensor against the infant's skin.