

DOs & DON'Ts of Pulse Oximetry Screening

DOs



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



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



DO
Use the best sites for screening, which is around the right hand and either foot.



DO
Align the emitter with the detector.



DO
Use the confidence indicators to ensure an accurate reading.

DON'Ts



DON'T
Ever use an adult pulse ox clip to screen an infant.



DON'T
Attempt to obtain a reading on the same extremity that a blood pressure cuff has been placed.



DON'T
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.



DON'T
Use tape or your own hand to hold the sensor against the infant's skin.

