



Pulse Oximeter

What is a Pulse Oximeter?

A pulse oximeter is a device that measures your child's heart rate and oxygenation through a sensor attached to the body.

Why is it important?

The pulse oximeter is an important assessment tool that can help guide you if your child is having a respiratory emergency.

What do I do if the pulse oximeter is alarming?

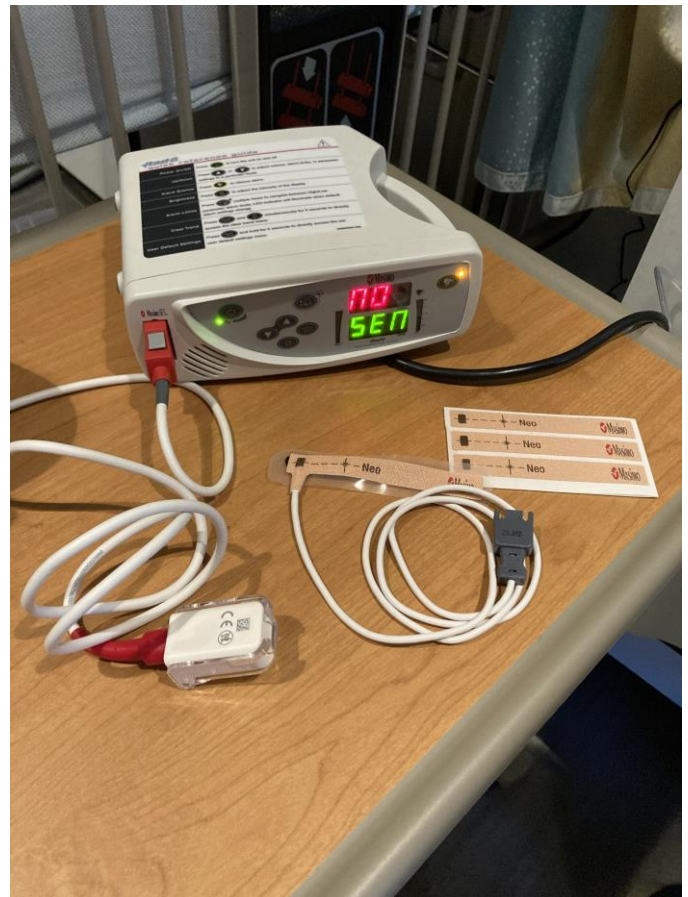
Look at your child first. Are they acting normal, or do they look to be in some sort of distress? If so, call 911. If they are acting normal and do not appear to be in distress you can check connections, suction, add oxygen, or try a new sensor and change the site of the pulse oximeter probe.

Items needed:

- Pulse oximeter machine
- Pulse oximeter cord
- Power cord
- Pulse oximeter sensor
- Extra sensor tabs

Where can I place the Pulse Oximeter probe?

- ✓ Toes, foot
- ✓ Fingers
- ✓ Ears



What Do the Values Mean?



SpO2— How well your child is oxygenating. Ask your medical team what your child’s normal SpO2 should be.

HR- Heart Rate. How fast your child’s heart is beating per minute. Ask your medical team what your child’s normal heart rate should be.



Signal I.Q.— This signal rises and falls with your child’s pulse.

Possible reasons why this would be low (red as seen in the picture on the left):

- Actively moving body part that the sensor is attached to.
- Sensor has become detached.
- Pulse rate is truly very low, **go through your emergency steps.**



Perfusion Index— indicates perfusion strength. A P.I. > 0.5 will be in the green, and if it is < 0.5 it will show red (as seen in the picture on the left).

If < 0.5:

- Don’t rely on an accurate SpO2 or HR measurement (visually look at your child).
- Check to see if their hands or feet are cold (if so, try placing a sock or mitten over sensor).
- Switch sensor placement on the hands or feet.



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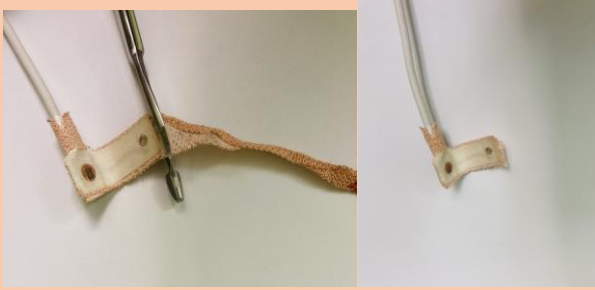
How to Replace the Sensor Tab Without Wasting the Probe



You identify that the sensor tap needs to be changed (e.g., dirty, sticky side folded over). Failure to replace could cause blisters or pressure sores.



Grab extra sensor tabs.



Cut off the portion between the “sticky tape” and white solid part (do not cut the white portion).



Now, line up the new sensor tab over the existing one. (Be careful not to fold the sticky sides together or you might have to grab a new sensor tab).