

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-24 PULSE OXIMETRY

Indications:

- For the routine, emergent, or rule out readings of oxygen saturation in the blood.

Contraindications:

- No contraindications for the use of a pulse oximeter
- Possible complicating factors
 - Carbon monoxide poisoning
 - 60 cycle interference
 - Excess of ambient or fluorescent lighting
 - Excessive patient movement
 - Hypotension
 - Vasoconstrictive drugs
 - Jaundice
 - Cold ambient temperatures or cool fingers
 - Fingernail polish on the nails

Procedure:

- Always follow manufacturer's recommended directions.
- Place the probe on an area of thin tissue
 - Finger
 - Toe
 - Earlobe
- Monitor for pulse and saturation readings
- Readings below 94% should be considered abnormal and treated appropriately
- Remember the pulse oximeter is merely a tool and should be used in conjunction with a full patient assessment

Documentation:

- Patient history and clinical indications for use.
- Time applied.
- Pulse oximetry oxygen saturation (SpO₂) before and after oxygen administration
- Pulse oximetry heart rate.
- Any treatment rendered while monitoring.
- Patient's response to treatment during pulse oximetry monitoring.