

Speaking: Checking vital signs

6. With a partner, act out the roles below to check on vital signs using the Airway, Breathing, Circulation (ABC) approach.

Student A (Instructor)

- Create a clinical scenario
- Ask questions step-by-step to check on the vital signs
- Student B explains how he would respond

Student B (Trainee)

- Answer to the questions of the instructor saying what would you assess and act.
- Give step-by-step explanations

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

Let's say ...

I guess I check ...

I might perform ...

Questions for Checking Vital Signs:

1. Airway

- “How would you check if the airway is open?”
- “Can you see or hear any obstruction in the airway?”
- “What would you do if the airway is blocked?”

2. Respiration (Breathing)

- “How would you assess the patient’s breathing?”
- “Does the patient breathe normally?”
- “What would you do if breathing is slow or irregular?”
- “What would you do if the patient is not breathing?”

3. Pulse

- “How do you check the patient’s pulse?”

- “Does the patient have pulse?”
- “How is their pulse rate in BPM?”
- “What would you do if the pulse is weak or absent?”

4. Blood pressure

- “How would you measure the patient’s blood pressure?”
- “How is her BP reading?” “Is it normal, too high, too low?”
- “What would you do if the blood pressure is too low or too high?”

5. Temperature

- “How would you check the patient’s temperature?”
- “Is it too low or too high?”
- “What would you do if the patient has a fever?”
- “What would you do if the patient has a hypothermia?”

Possible Scenarios

1. Patient is unconscious after a fall
2. Patient is choking
3. Patient has chest pain and difficulty breathing
4. Patient is bleeding heavily
5. Patient is unresponsive but breathing
6. Other

7. Use the conversation to fill out the worksheet with the steps that you would take.

Worksheet #4

Vital Signs

Situation: Your patient is not breathing normally. What do you do?

First, I check _____.

If _____,
then I _____.

If _____,
then I _____.

Next, I check _____.

If _____,
then I _____.

If _____,
then I _____.