



## EMS System for Metropolitan Oklahoma City and Tulsa 2026 Medical Control Board Treatment Protocols



Approved 9/17/25, Effective 1/15/26, replaces all prior versions

### 3G – PULSE OXIMETRY ADULT & PEDIATRIC

|                                |
|--------------------------------|
| EMERGENCY MEDICAL<br>RESPONDER |
| EMT                            |
| EMT-INTERMEDIATE 85            |
| ADVANCED EMT                   |
| PARAMEDIC                      |

#### Indications:

1. Medical General Assessment/General Supportive Care.
2. Trauma General Assessment/Trauma & Hypovolemic Shock Supportive Care.
3. Acute Dyspnea (Uncertain Etiology, Asthma, COPD, CHF, BRUE).
4. Cardiovascular Disorders (Chest Pain, Acute Coronary Syndrome, Dysrhythmias).
5. Neurologic Disorders/Altered Mental Status (Stroke, Seizure, Syncope).
6. Toxicologic/Poisonings (Altered Mental Status, Dyspnea).
7. Trauma (Head, Face, Neck, Chest Injuries).

Contraindications: None

#### Technique:

- A. Power on the pulse oximeter (may be included with monitor/defibrillator).
- B. Select an appropriate site for measurement.
  1. Best skin color on hand (or foot/ear if pediatric).
  2. Not distal to acute suspected orthopedic injuries.
- C. Place the infrared sensor on the patient.
- D. Read the pulse rate and oximetry reading (SpO<sub>2</sub>).

#### Precautions:

- A. Pulse oximetry values may be inaccurate in hemodynamically compromised patients (shock), patients with peripheral vascular constriction, carbon monoxide poisonings/smoke inhalations, and any conditions that may cause methemoglobinemia or sulfhemoglobinemia. Always correlate the patient's clinical condition with SpO<sub>2</sub> readings.
- B. Trends prove more informative than a single measurement. At least two measurements should be performed and documented when using pulse oximetry. In the setting of artificial airway placement, pulse oximetry should be utilized continuously.