Approved 9/2/26, Effective 1/15/27, replaces all prior versions

3G – PULSE OXIMETRY ADULT & PEDIATRIC

EMERGENCY MEDICAL 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_2).

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_2 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.