

Box 4-11 provides a detailed description of these devices.

Nursing Alert

The belief that core temperature can be estimated by adding 1° C to the temperature taken in the axilla is incorrect. Do not add a degree to the finding obtained by taking a temperature by the axillary route.

Box 4-11

Types of Thermometers Used to Measure Temperature in Infants and Children

Electronic Thermometer

Temperature is sensed with an electronic component called thermistor mounted at the tip of a plastic and stainless steel probe, which is connected to an electronic recorder. A disposable plastic cover is used for infection control.

Temperature measurement appears on digital display within 60 seconds.

The probe can be placed in the mouth, axilla, or rectum.

Infrared Thermometer

Thermal radiation is measured from the axilla, ear canal, or tympanic membrane.

Temperature measurement appears on the digital display in approximately 1 second.

Three types are available for ear-based use: Tympanic, ear canal, and arterial heat balance via the ear canal (AHBE).

Often these devices are all inappropriately referred to as *tympanic thermometers*.

Temperatures measured in this way reflect arterial (bloodstream)