

Tympanic

Oral—when child can hold thermometer under tongue

Rectal—if definitive temperature reading is needed

Older Than 5 Years Old

Oral

Axillary

Tympanic

Box 4-10

Alternative Temperature Measurement Sites for Ill Children

Skin

A probe is placed on the skin to determine heat output in response to changes in the patient's skin temperature.

Skin temperature sensors are most often used for neonates and infants placed in radiant heat warmers or isolettes (using servo control feature of the apparatus). In turn, the heater unit warms to a set point to maintain the infant's temperature within a specified range.

ThermoSpot is an example of a device allowing continuous thermal monitoring in neonates.

Urinary Bladder

A thermistor or thermocouple is placed within the indwelling bladder catheter. The catheter tip immersed in the bladder provides a continuous temperature read-out on the bedside monitor.

This is not a true measure of core temperature but responds better