Temperature Site

Oral

Place tip under tongue in right or left posterior sublingual pocket, not in front of tongue. Have child keep mouth closed without biting on thermometer.

Pacifier thermometers measure intraoral or supralingual temperature and are available but lack support in the literature.

Several factors affect mouth temperature: Eating and mastication, hot or cold beverages, open-mouth breathing, and ambient temperature.



Axillary

Place tip under arm in center of axilla and keep close to skin, not clothing. Hold child's arm firmly against side.

Temperature may be affected by poor peripheral perfusion (results in lower value), clothing or swaddling, use of radiant warmer, or amount of brown fat in cold-stressed neonate (results in higher value).

Advantage: Avoids intrusive procedure and eliminates risk of rectal perforation.



Ear Based (Aural)

Insert small infrared probe deeply into canal to allow sensor to obtain measurement.

Size of probe (most are 8 mm) may influence accuracy of result. In young children, this may be a problem because of small diameter of canal.

Proper placement of ear is controversial related to whether the pinna should be pulled in manner similar to that used during otoscopy.



Rectal

Place well-lubricated tip at maximum 2.5 cm (1 inch) into rectum for children and 1.5 cm (0.6 inch) for infants; securely hold thermometer close to anus.

Child may be placed in side-lying, supine, or prone position (i.e., supine with knees flexed toward abdomen); cover penis because procedure may