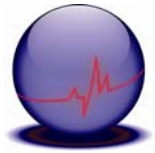




FAST RESPONSE SCHOOL OF HEALTHCARE EDUCATION

EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIAN

EMT: SPECIALTIES – LEARNING SHEET



ORTHOSTATIC VITAL SIGNS

OBJECTIVE:

Student will demonstrate the ability to correctly identify whether a patient is positive for volume loss in a medical patient.

Patients with the following complaints or symptoms:

INDICATIONS:

- Abdominal Pain
- General Weakness
- Syncope
- Dizziness
- Vaginal Bleeding
- Suspected Ectopic Pregnancy
- Rectal Bleeding
- Excessive Vomiting / Diarrhea
- Coffee ground emesis
- Black Tarry stool

EQUIPMENT:

1. Patient.
2. Stethoscope.
3. Blood Pressure Cuff (various sizes).

Orthostatic Vital Signs Technique:

1.	Takes body substance isolation precautions.
2.	Identifies the purpose of taking orthostatic vital signs. (Used to Identify a potential volume loss in a medical patient)
3.	Indicate at least 5 indications for when orthostatic vital signs should be taken.
4.	Explain to patient the procedure for taking orthostatic vital signs
5.	Have patient lay supine or flat for at least 60-90 seconds prior to starting orthostatic vital signs
6.	Obtain a baseline heart rate in the supine position and record finding
7.	Obtain a baseline blood pressure in the supine position and record finding
8.	Assist patient to a standing position. If patient complains of dizziness, lightheadedness or ALOC occurs initially, lay patient supine and note finding as patient being positive orthostatic
9.	Wait 60-120 seconds and ask patient if they are dizzy, lightheaded. If ALOC, lightheadedness or dizziness is present, lay patient supine and note finding
10.	Obtain a heart rate in the standing position and record finding
11.	Obtain a blood pressure in the standing position and record finding
12.	Identify if heart rate increases by >20 BPM or systolic blood pressure decreases by >20 mmHg as a positive orthostatic finding

CRITICAL CRITERIA

• Did not take or verbalize BSI	• Selects the wrong size BP cuff
• Did not determine HR within +/- 4 BPM	• Did not determine BP within +/- 4 mmHg
• Did not correctly identify or verbalize the constitution of orthostatic vital signs	
• Did not indicate reasons for checking orthostatic vital signs	