### Vital Signs

**Name of Policy:** Vital Signs  
**Policy Number:** 3364-110-09-06  
**Department:** Nursing Service  
**Approving Officer:** Director of Nursing/CNO  
**Responsible Agent:** Director of Nursing/CNO  
**Scope:** The University of Toledo Medical Center (UTMC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New policy proposal</th>
<th>Major revision of existing policy</th>
<th>Minor/technical revision of existing policy</th>
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#### (A) Policy Statement

Unless otherwise ordered, temperature, pulse, respirations, and blood pressures will be placed in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) on all patients three times a day: morning, afternoon, and evening. Specialized units will follow their own established guidelines.

#### (B) Purpose of Policy

To establish uniform guidelines for monitoring patient vital signs.

#### (C) Procedure

1. It is the nurse’s responsibility to check vital signs routinely, when indicated by the patient’s condition, and to report any significant findings to the physician.

2. Temperatures will be taken orally unless contraindicated. On pediatric patients, axillary temperatures will be taken. Tympanic and temporal artery thermometers may also be used if not contraindicated. Vital signs will be retaken and recorded as the patient’s condition warrants or as ordered by the physician.

3. All post-operative vital signs are to be taken and recorded at least every four hours for 24 hours unless otherwise indicated.

4. After invasive diagnostic procedures, vital signs should be monitored and recorded as ordered or more frequently if the patient’s condition warrants.

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**Approved by:**  
Monneca Smith, MSN, RN  
Director of Nursing/CNO  

**Date:** 6.26.15  

**Review/Revision Date:**  
1982 1989 1/2008  
1985 1995 6.26.15  
1986 1998  
1987 2002  
1988 2005  

**Next Review Date:** 6/2018  

**Policies Superseded by This Policy:**