

Nursing Skill: Vital Signs

When determining the best site for blood pressure measurement, which scenarios require the nurse to choose an alternative site?

Mastectomy on left side

An arteriovenous shunt is present

Intravenous fluids infusing in right forearm

When assessing the oral temperature of an adult client, which findings indicate an alternate route is needed?

A hot or cold beverage consumed in the last 20 minutes

The client smoked in the last 20 minutes

The client is chewing gum

The client has eaten within the last 20 minutes

The components of CASE are:

- **C** = Clinical judgment
- **A** = Assessment and correlation to the National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEX-RN®) category test plan
- **S** = Safety
- **E** = Essentials (Social Determinants of Health, Spheres, Culture Sensitivity/Awareness, Domain)

The nurse is preparing to assess the vital signs of an adult client. Identify the assessment findings that require follow-up prior to the skill being performed.

Client is drinking ice water

Client is allergic to latex

Client has a surgical history of mastectomy

If the stethoscope is applied too **firmly** against the antecubital fossa, a false **low diastolic** reading can result.

When assessing the tympanic temperature of an adult client, the nurse pulls the ear pinna **back, up, and out** to allow maximum exposure of the tympanic membrane. This ensures the speculum is correctly positioned.