

Monitoring Pulse Oximetry – Updated July 2012

OBJECTIVE: To describe the knowledge and skills required to analyze sleep recordings using a quantifiable method for measurement of oxygen saturation during overnight polysomnography.

OUTCOME ASSESSMENT: Outcome is determined by clinical and physiologic assessment of adequacy of the recording and/or patient response to therapy. The following competency evaluation tool provides an objective assessment of the performance of the polysomnographic technologist, polysomnographic technician and polysomnographic trainee.

INSTRUCTIONS: The evaluator assesses the employee in the performance of the competency, indicating either a **(Yes)** the employee is competent or a **(No)** the employee is not competent with the process. Competency is met when the employee performs the competency according to accepted standards and guidelines. For every **(No)** a plan for correction should be outlined with a timeline for retesting. The correction plan and timeline must be documented in the comments section.

NAME _____

DATE _____

EVALUATOR _____

**Comments: A correction plan and timeline for retesting must be outlined for each (No) documented.*

Monitoring Pulse Oximetry	Yes	No	*Correction Plan/ Retesting Date
Equipment Operation / Calibration			
Demonstrate knowledge of operation of pulse oximeter devices; ability to adjust sampling rate/trend settings			
Demonstrate ability to calibrate pulse oximeter device to polygraph as appropriate to acquisition equipment			
Apply Pulse Oximeter Sensor			
Demonstrate ability to appropriately apply reusable or disposable pulse oximeter sensor allowing for patient comfort, compliance, and accurate data acquisition			
Demonstrate ability to recognize when improper sensor placement is affecting oximeter reading			
Patient Interaction			
Explain use of pulse oximetry to patient during pre-testing procedure; utilize communication skills appropriate to patient age and physical/mental abilities			
Monitor Oximetry During PSG			
Identify the limitations of the patient monitoring device; recognize artifact in pulse rate and/or oximetry readings			
Recognize and document low baseline saturation levels			
Recognize desaturation related to respiratory and other events; identify and document corresponding event characteristics (i.e., respiratory, cardiac, sleep state, etc).			
Verify the accuracy of pulse oximetry readings obtained during NREM and REM sleep			
Document oxygen saturation levels during PSG on polygraph and technical note forms			

Monitoring Pulse Oximetry	Yes	No	*Correction Plan/ Retesting Date
Patient Safety			
Verbalize protocol for contacting the Medical Director			
Identify when to use supplemental oxygen due to low oxygen saturation levels			
Infection Control			
Demonstrate appropriate cleaning and disinfection of permanent interface devices			