



COMBAT LIFESAVER
TACTICAL COMBAT CASUALTY CARE

MODULE 18:
CASUALTY
MONITORING
SKILL INSTRUCTIONS

30 JUN 2020



**Committee on
Tactical Combat
Casualty Care
(CoTCCC)**

RADIAL PULSE ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION

TASK:	Measure a radial (wrist) pulse
CONDITION:	Given a casualty in a Tactical Field Care scenario where the casualty and responder are in combat gear
STANDARD:	Measure a radial pulse following all steps and meeting all performance measures
EQUIPMENT:	A watch or device that can display seconds

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

- 01** Align the middle and index fingers of your dominant hand.
- 02** Position the casualty's hand with the palm facing up.
NOTE: In this position, you should see a ligament elevated underneath the skin.
- 03** Place your fingers next to this ligament on the same side as the casualty's thumb.
NOTE: If your fingers are on the hard surface of the wrist bones, move them down and along the ligament until they reach a softer area.
- 04** Press your fingers into the hollow space to feel the radial artery beneath the skin.
NOTE: If you cannot feel the pulse, press a little harder, being careful not to hurt the casualty.
NOTE: If you are still having trouble locating the radial artery, slide your fingers up and along the ligament until you reach the bottom of the wrist bones.
NOTE: At the point where the hollow space meets the wrist bones, the pulse is easier to feel.
- 05** With a timing device, count the beats of the pulse for 15 seconds.
- 06** Multiply that number by four and you will have the casualty's pulse rate (in beats/minute).
- 07** Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

CAROTID PULSE ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION

TASK:	Measure a carotid (neck) pulse
CONDITION:	Given a casualty in a Tactical Field Care scenario where the casualty and responder are in combat gear
STANDARD:	Measure a carotid pulse following all steps and meeting all performance measures
EQUIPMENT:	A watch or device that can display seconds

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

- 01** Align the middle and index fingers of your dominant hand.
- 02** Place your middle and index finger on the side of the casualty's neck, to the side of the windpipe, to find the carotid artery.
- 03** Press your fingers into the hollow space to feel the carotid artery beneath the skin.
NOTE: If you cannot feel the pulse, press a little harder, being careful not to hurt the casualty.
CAUTION: Be careful not to press too hard over the carotid artery, as this can cause the casualty to become lightheaded.
- 04** When you succeed in finding the pulse, count the beats of the pulse for 15 seconds with a timing device.
- 05** Multiply that number by four, and you will have the casualty's pulse rate (in beats/minute).
- 06** Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

POSTERIOR TIBIAL PULSE ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION

TASK:	Measure a posterior tibial (inside the ankle) pulse
CONDITION:	Given a casualty in a Tactical Field Care scenario where the casualty and responder are in combat gear
STANDARD:	Measure a posterior tibial pulse following all steps and meeting all performance measures
EQUIPMENT:	A watch or device that can display seconds

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

- 01 Align the middle and index fingers of your dominant hand.
- 02 Slide your fingers down the inside of the casualty's boot behind the bony part of the ankle or remove the boot to expose the ankle.
- 03 Place your fingers, on the inside of the foot, between the bony part of the ankle bone and the Achilles tendon (tough band of tissue above the heel).
- 04 Press your fingers into the hollow space to feel the posterior tibial artery beneath the skin.
NOTE: If you cannot feel the pulse, press a little harder, being careful not to hurt the casualty.
- 05 With a timing device, count the beats of the pulse for 15 seconds.
- 06 Multiply that number by four and you will have the casualty's pulse rate (in beats/minute).
- 07 Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

RESPIRATORY RATE MEASUREMENT INSTRUCTION

TASK:	Measure a casualty's respiratory rate
CONDITION:	Given a combat scenario where the casualty and responder are in combat gear and a timing device is available
STANDARD:	Measure the casualty's respiratory rate following all steps and measures correctly
EQUIPMENT:	A watch or device that can display seconds

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

- 01 Have the casualty assume whatever position is comfortable.
- 02 While using a timing device to time 15 seconds, count the number of times the casualty's chest rises and falls.
NOTE: Don't tell the casualty that you're going to measure their breathing because they are likely to change their breathing rate without realizing it.
- 03 Multiply the number you counted by four. The resulting number is the casualty's respiratory rate in breaths/minute.
NOTE: A respiratory rate greater than 20 breaths per minute indicates respiratory distress.
- 04 Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

AVPU ASSESSMENT INSTRUCTION

TASK:	Conduct an AVPU (<u>A</u> lert, <u>R</u> esponds to <u>V</u> oice, <u>R</u> esponds to <u>P</u> ain, <u>U</u> nresponsive) assessment to determine a casualty's level of responsiveness
CONDITION:	Given a Tactical Field Care scenario where the casualty and responder are in combat gear and an evaluation of a casualty's responsiveness is required
STANDARD:	Determine the casualty's level of responsiveness using the AVPU scale, following all steps and meeting all performance measures properly
EQUIPMENT:	N/A

PERFORMANCE MEASURES: step-by-step instructions

- 01** Check for responsiveness using the following steps:
- 02** Ask in a loud, but calm, voice, "Are you okay?"
NOTE: If the casualty coherently answers, then they are an **A = Alert** on the AVPU scale and you **do not** need to follow steps 3–4.
NOTE: If the casualty doesn't answer or mumbles, proceed to step 3.
- 03** Repeat in a loud, but calm, voice, "Are you okay?" If the answer is not clear, ask the casualty to squeeze your finger or to move an arm or leg.
NOTE: If the casualty "mumbles" or is responding to voice commands such as "Squeeze my finger," they are a **V = Responds to Voice** and you **do not** need to follow step 4.
NOTE: If the casualty does not respond to voice commands, proceed to step 4.
- 04** Rub the breastbone briskly with a knuckle or squeeze the first or second toe over the toenail, or if the casualty is wearing individual body armor, pinch their nose or earlobe.
NOTE: **Do not** try to elicit pain from any injured areas of the casualty.
NOTE: Observe for reaction to your maneuver. If the casualty responds in any way to painful stimuli, they are a **P = Responds to Pain**.
- 05** If the casualty does not respond to any of these three attempts, they are a **U = Unresponsive**.
- 06** Document all findings and treatments on a DD Form 1380 TCCC Casualty Card and attach it to the casualty.

Developed by the

JOINT TRAUMA SYSTEM

A Combat Support Division of



DEFENSE HEALTH AGENCY