



Section 14: Appendix 2: Medical Procedures

SECTION 14: ORTHOSTATIC BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT

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P	PARAMEDIC	P

INDICATIONS	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	CONTRAINDICATIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient situations with suspected blood / fluid loss / dehydration • Patients > 8 years of age, or patients larger than the Broselow tape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abdominal Pain • Dizziness • Pregnancy • Syncope 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for patient being unsteady on feet

PROCEDURE

1. Assess the need for orthostatic blood pressure measurement.
2. Obtain patient's pulse and blood pressure while supine.
3. Have patient stand for one minute.
4. Obtain patient's pulse and blood pressure while standing.
5. If pulse has increased by 20 BPM or systolic blood pressure decreased by 20 mmHg, the orthostatic measurements are considered positive.
6. If patient is unable to stand, orthostatic measurements may be taken while the patient is sitting with feet dangling.
7. If positive orthostatic changes occur while sitting, DO NOT continue to the standing position.
8. Document the time and vital signs for supine and standing positions on the patient care report.
9. Determine appropriate treatment based on protocol.