

# Measuring Temperature

## **NURSE DELEGATION: INSTRUCTIONS FOR GENERAL NURSING TASK**

General delegated tasks are those tasks that the Nurse identifies as general in nature and once learned can be performed for all residents. The Caregiver to whom the task is delegated must demonstrate ability to perform the task as instructed by the Nurse. By signing this delegation form, the Caregiver being delegated agrees to perform the task as taught. The nurse will review Caregiver performance annually or as needed to assure continued competency in performance of the task.

### **General Task: MEASURING TEMPERATURE**

#### Supplies Needed

1. Digital Thermoscan ear thermometer
2. Plastic sleeves or protective coverings
3. Hand Sanitizer Solution; use if no body fluid present

#### Procedures/Steps to Follow to Perform the Task

1. Explain the procedure to the resident.
2. Assemble the equipment at the bedside or in a convenient work area.
3. Assist the resident to a sitting or supine position.
4. Remove the digital thermometer from its case and attach a disposable sleeve over the tip of the thermometer.
5. Insert tip into resident's ear canal and push button on top back side of thermometer
6. Wait a few seconds until thermometer beeps and then remove from ear canal and read digital display of temperature.
7. Hold thermometer tip over trash bag and press sleeve ejector lever below tip to eject sleeve into bag.
8. Return digital thermometer to carrying case.
9. Provide resident comfort measures.
10. Wash hands with hand-washing solution or use Hand Sanitizer if no body fluids are present.
11. Document Temperature in MAR or Vital Sign Flow Sheet.

#### Outcomes

1. Will obtain accurate temperature measurement.

#### Potential Risks/Side Effects and Appropriate Actions to Deal with them (include what to observe for and report, what to do, and whom to contact)

1. Avoid pushing tip of thermometer into resident ear if resident complains of pain or discomfort. Notify Nurse.
2. Notify Nurse if temperature exceeds the parameters written on MAR.

