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# Forsyth County EMS

## Skill Procedure: Temperature Measurement (Tympanic)

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|  | MR / EMT              |  |
|  | Expanded Scope<br>EMT |  |
|  | EMT-I                 |  |
|  | EMT-P                 |  |

### I. Clinical Indications:

- A. Responders during Rehabilitation operations.
- B. Patients with suspected fever

### II. Procedure:

- A. Turn the machine on and allow for self-tests.
- B. Apply probe cover
- C. Straighten the ear canal to give a clear view of tympanic membrane
  - a. For children under 1 year of age, pull the ear straight back
  - b. For patients over 1 year to adult, pull the ear up and to the back
- D. While pulling on the ear insert the probe snugly into the ear canal and press the SCAN button. Hold probe in place until machine indicates scan is complete (beeps).
- E. Remove the probe from the ear and dispose of the probe cover.

### III. Values:

Comparable to oral temperatures with 98.7° F considered normal with a range of 97.0° F to 99.0° F.

### IV. PEARLS:

- The machine is only accurate within its normal operating temperature range of 50° F to 104° F ambient temperature. Move patients into a suitable environment for accurate temperature reading.
- If the probe becomes dirty clean with an alcohol swab.
- The probe must be properly inserted for an accurate temperature reading proper technique is very important. Improper technique is the number one cause of inaccurate results.

### V. Certification Requirements:

Maintain knowledge of the indications, contraindications, technique, and possible complications of the procedure. Assessment of this knowledge may be accomplished via quality assurance mechanisms, classroom demonstrations, skills stations, or other mechanisms as deemed appropriate by the local EMS System. Assessment should include direct observation at least once per certification cycle.

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Approved by:  
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Medical Director  
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