

BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT - SCH

PRACTICE GUIDELINE[®]

DOCUMENT SUMMARY/KEY POINTS

- Correct cuff size depends on arm size. Practically speaking, correct cuff size equals largest cuff that will fit on the upper arm with room below for the stethoscope head.
- BP should preferably be measured in the right arm of a relaxed, seated child.
- BP measurement by auscultation is the Gold Standard.
- BP by automated device correlates reasonably well with auscultation, with practical advantages of rapid measurement remote from child and elimination of reader error.
- If BP is high by automated device, repeat by auscultation.^[1]

CHANGE SUMMARY

- Document due for mandatory review,
- Rescinds SCH Document C.16.B.3
- No changes in practice.

READ ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

- All SCH Emergency Department clinical staff should read and acknowledge this document.

This document reflects what is currently regarded as safe practice. However, as in any clinical situation, there may be factors which cannot be covered by a single set of guidelines. This document does not replace the need for the application of clinical judgement to each individual presentation.

Approved by:	SCHN Policy Procedure and Guideline Committee	
Date Effective:	1 st October 2015	Review Period: 3 years
Team Leader:	Head of Department	Area/Dept: SCH Emergency Department

Blood Pressure Measurement in the Emergency Department

Indications for Blood Pressure measurement

1. Detect hypotension in shock
2. Monitor vital signs indicating raised intracranial pressure.
3. Detect complications of renal disease
4. Diagnosis or monitoring of cardiac disease
5. Detect complications of treatment e.g. high dose steroids
6. Detect BP measurements above the 95th centile in asymptomatic patients for follow-up and investigation. This may represent early onset of essential hypertension.

BP can be affected by normal diurnal fluctuation, changes in physical activity and emotional stress.

Clinical presentations

1. The following conditions should have a BP recorded in the Emergency Department: -
2. Head injury of any severity
3. Headache
4. Urinary tract infection – suspected or diagnosed
5. Proteinuria or haematuria
6. Acute or chronic renal failure
7. Moderate to severe dehydration
8. Sepsis
9. Haemorrhage
10. Abdominal masses
11. Seizure
12. Obesity
13. Known or suspected cardiac disease

Method of BP Measurement

1. Ensure infant or child is settled and at rest, if possible
2. Choose correct cuff size – the largest cuff that will fit comfortably between the axilla and elbow
3. Choose correct cuff position – preferably the right arm each time
4. Patient with cubital fossa supported at heart level, preferably seated
5. Systolic (SBP) and diastolic (DBP) measurements

For manual BP measurement, systolic BP is defined by onset of “tapping” Korotkoff sounds. Diastolic BP defined by disappearance of Korotkoff sounds

6. Reference measurement to percentile charts (below)
7. Note if BP diastolic or systolic > 95th centile
8. Reconsider child's distress, anxiety or pain and attend to these as appropriate
9. Repeat measurement. Perform manual BP measurement if above 95th centile.

If repeat measurement is above 95th see: Hypertension – ED SCH

Centile charts for BP Measurement

The following tables have been adapted from: “National high blood pressure education program working group on high blood pressure in children and adolescents”.^[2]

Using the BP Tables (below)

1. Use the standard height charts to determine the height percentile.
2. Measure and record the child's SBP and DBP.
3. Use the correct gender table for SBP and DBP.
4. Find the child's age on the left side of the table. Follow the age row horizontally across the table to the intersection of the line for the height percentile (vertical column).
5. There, find the 50th, 90th, 95th, and 99th percentiles for SBP in the left columns and for DBP in the right columns.
 - BP < 90th percentile is normal.
 - BP between the 90th and 95th percentile is pre-hypertension. In adolescents, BP \geq 120/80 mm Hg is prehypertension, even if this figure is < 90th percentile.
 - BP >95th percentile may be hypertension.
6. If the BP is >90th percentile, the BP should be repeated twice at the same office visit, and an average SBP and DBP should be used.

Note: For hypertension management see: Hypertension – ED SCH

Blood Pressure levels for Boys by Age and Height Percentile ^[2]

Age, y	BP Percentile	SBP, mm Hg								DBP, mm Hg							
		Percentile of Height								Percentile of Height							
		5th	10th	25th	50th	75th	90th	95th	5th	10th	25th	50th	75th	90th	95th		
1	50th	80	81	83	85	87	88	89	34	35	36	37	38	39	39		
	90th	94	95	97	99	100	102	103	49	50	51	52	53	53	54		
	95th	98	99	101	103	104	106	106	54	54	55	56	57	58	58		
	99th	105	106	108	110	112	113	114	61	62	63	64	65	66	66		
2	50th	84	85	87	88	90	92	92	39	40	41	42	43	44	44		
	90th	97	99	100	102	104	105	106	54	55	56	57	58	58	59		
	95th	101	102	104	106	108	109	110	59	59	60	61	62	63	63		
	99th	109	110	111	113	115	117	117	66	67	68	69	70	71	71		
3	50th	86	87	89	91	93	94	95	44	44	45	46	47	48	48		
	90th	100	101	103	105	107	108	109	59	59	60	61	62	63	63		
	95th	104	105	107	109	110	112	113	63	63	64	65	66	67	67		
	99th	111	112	114	116	118	119	120	71	71	72	73	74	75	75		
4	50th	88	89	91	93	95	96	97	47	48	49	50	51	51	52		
	90th	102	103	105	107	109	110	111	62	63	64	65	66	66	67		
	95th	106	107	109	111	112	114	115	66	67	68	69	70	71	71		
	99th	113	114	116	118	120	121	122	74	75	76	77	78	78	79		
5	50th	90	91	93	95	96	98	98	50	51	52	53	54	55	55		
	90th	104	105	106	108	110	111	112	65	66	67	68	69	69	70		
	95th	108	109	110	112	114	115	116	69	70	71	72	73	74	74		
	99th	115	116	118	120	121	123	123	77	78	79	80	81	81	82		
6	50th	91	92	94	96	98	99	100	53	53	54	55	56	57	57		
	90th	105	106	108	110	111	113	113	68	68	69	70	71	72	72		
	95th	109	110	112	114	115	117	117	72	72	73	74	75	76	76		
	99th	116	117	119	121	123	124	125	80	80	81	82	83	84	84		
7	50th	92	94	95	97	99	100	101	55	55	56	57	58	59	59		
	90th	106	107	109	111	113	114	115	70	70	71	72	73	74	74		
	95th	110	111	113	115	117	118	119	74	74	75	76	77	78	78		
	99th	117	118	120	122	124	125	126	82	82	83	84	85	86	86		
8	50th	94	95	97	99	100	102	102	56	57	58	59	60	61	61		
	90th	107	109	110	112	114	115	116	71	72	72	73	74	75	76		
	95th	111	112	114	116	118	119	120	75	76	77	78	79	79	80		
	99th	119	120	122	123	125	127	127	83	84	85	86	87	87	88		
9	50th	95	96	98	100	102	103	104	57	58	59	60	61	61	62		
	90th	109	110	112	114	115	117	118	72	73	74	75	76	76	77		
	95th	113	114	116	118	119	121	121	76	77	78	79	80	81	81		
	99th	120	121	123	125	127	128	129	84	85	86	87	88	88	89		
10	50th	97	98	100	102	103	105	106	58	59	60	61	61	62	63		
	90th	111	112	114	115	117	119	119	73	73	74	75	76	77	78		
	95th	115	116	117	119	121	122	123	77	78	79	80	81	81	82		
	99th	122	123	125	127	128	130	130	85	86	86	88	88	89	90		
11	50th	99	100	102	104	105	107	107	59	59	60	61	62	63	63		
	90th	113	114	115	117	119	120	121	74	74	75	76	77	78	78		
	95th	117	118	119	121	123	124	125	78	78	79	80	81	82	82		
	99th	124	125	127	129	130	132	132	86	86	87	88	89	90	90		
12	50th	101	102	104	106	108	109	110	59	60	61	62	63	63	64		
	90th	115	116	118	120	121	123	123	74	75	75	76	77	78	79		
	95th	119	120	122	123	125	127	127	78	79	80	81	82	82	83		
	99th	126	127	129	131	133	134	135	86	87	88	89	90	90	91		
13	50th	104	105	106	108	110	111	112	60	60	61	62	63	64	64		
	90th	117	118	120	122	124	125	126	75	75	76	77	78	79	79		
	95th	121	122	124	126	128	129	130	79	79	80	81	82	83	83		
	99th	128	130	131	133	135	136	137	87	87	88	89	90	91	91		
14	50th	106	107	109	111	113	114	115	60	61	62	63	64	65	65		
	90th	120	121	123	125	126	128	128	75	76	77	78	79	79	80		
	95th	124	125	127	128	130	132	132	80	80	81	82	83	84	84		
	99th	131	132	134	136	138	139	140	87	88	89	90	91	92	92		
15	50th	109	110	112	113	115	117	117	61	62	63	64	65	66	66		
	90th	122	124	125	127	129	130	131	76	77	78	79	80	80	81		
	95th	126	127	129	131	133	134	135	81	81	82	83	84	85	85		
	99th	134	135	136	138	140	142	142	88	89	90	91	92	93	93		
16	50th	111	112	114	116	118	119	120	63	63	64	65	66	67	67		
	90th	125	126	128	130	131	133	134	78	78	79	80	81	82	82		
	95th	129	130	132	134	135	137	137	82	83	83	84	85	86	87		
	99th	136	137	139	141	143	144	145	90	90	91	92	93	94	94		
17	50th	114	115	116	118	120	121	122	65	66	66	67	68	69	70		
	90th	127	128	130	132	134	135	136	80	80	81	82	83	84	84		
	95th	131	132	134	136	138	139	140	84	85	86	87	87	88	89		
	99th	139	140	141	143	145	146	147	92	93	93	94	95	96	97		

Blood Pressure levels for Girls by Age and Height Percentile^[2]

Age, y	BP Percentile	SBP, mm Hg							DBP, mm Hg						
		Percentile of Height							Percentile of Height						
		5th	10th	25th	50th	75th	90th	95th	5th	10th	25th	50th	75th	90th	95th
1	50th	83	84	85	86	88	89	90	38	39	39	40	41	41	42
	90th	97	97	98	100	101	102	103	52	53	53	54	55	55	56
	95th	100	101	102	104	105	106	107	56	57	57	58	59	59	60
	99th	108	108	109	111	112	113	114	64	64	65	65	66	67	67
2	50th	85	85	87	88	89	91	91	43	44	44	45	46	46	47
	90th	98	99	100	101	103	104	105	57	58	58	59	60	61	61
	95th	102	103	104	105	107	108	109	61	62	62	63	64	65	65
	99th	109	110	111	112	114	115	116	69	69	70	70	71	72	72
3	50th	86	87	88	89	91	92	93	47	48	48	49	50	50	51
	90th	100	100	102	103	104	106	106	61	62	62	63	64	64	65
	95th	104	104	105	107	108	109	110	65	66	66	67	68	68	69
	99th	111	111	113	114	115	116	117	73	73	74	74	75	76	76
4	50th	88	88	90	91	92	94	94	50	50	51	52	52	53	54
	90th	101	102	103	104	106	107	108	64	64	65	66	67	67	68
	95th	105	106	107	108	110	111	112	68	68	69	70	71	71	72
	99th	112	113	114	115	117	118	119	76	76	76	77	78	79	79
5	50th	89	90	91	93	94	95	96	52	53	53	54	55	55	56
	90th	103	103	105	106	107	109	109	66	67	67	68	69	69	70
	95th	107	107	108	110	111	112	113	70	71	71	72	73	73	74
	99th	114	114	116	117	118	120	120	78	78	79	79	80	81	81
6	50th	91	92	93	94	96	97	98	54	54	55	56	56	57	58
	90th	104	105	106	108	109	110	111	68	68	69	70	70	71	72
	95th	108	109	110	111	113	114	115	72	72	73	74	74	75	76
	99th	115	116	117	119	120	121	122	80	80	80	81	82	83	83
7	50th	93	93	95	96	97	99	99	56	56	56	57	58	58	59
	90th	106	107	108	109	111	112	113	69	70	70	71	72	72	73
	95th	110	111	112	113	115	116	116	73	74	74	75	76	76	77
	99th	117	118	119	120	122	123	124	81	81	82	82	83	84	84
8	50th	95	95	96	98	99	100	101	57	57	57	58	59	60	60
	90th	108	109	110	111	113	114	114	71	71	71	72	73	74	74
	95th	112	112	114	115	116	118	118	75	75	75	76	77	78	78
	99th	119	120	121	122	123	125	125	82	82	83	83	84	85	86
9	50th	96	97	98	100	101	102	103	58	58	58	59	60	61	61
	90th	110	110	112	113	114	116	116	72	72	72	73	74	75	75
	95th	114	114	115	117	118	119	120	76	76	76	77	78	79	79
	99th	121	121	123	124	125	127	127	83	83	84	84	85	86	87
10	50th	98	99	100	102	103	104	105	59	59	59	60	61	62	62
	90th	112	112	114	115	116	118	118	73	73	73	74	75	76	76
	95th	116	116	117	119	120	121	122	77	77	77	78	79	80	80
	99th	123	123	125	126	127	129	129	84	84	85	86	86	87	88
11	50th	100	101	102	103	105	106	107	60	60	60	61	62	63	63
	90th	114	114	116	117	118	119	120	74	74	74	75	76	77	77
	95th	118	118	119	121	122	123	124	78	78	78	79	80	81	81
	99th	125	125	126	128	129	130	131	85	85	86	87	87	88	89
12	50th	102	103	104	105	107	108	109	61	61	61	62	63	64	64
	90th	116	116	117	119	120	121	122	75	75	75	76	77	78	78
	95th	119	120	121	123	124	125	126	79	79	79	80	81	82	82
	99th	127	127	128	130	131	132	133	86	86	87	88	88	89	90
13	50th	104	105	106	107	109	110	110	62	62	62	63	64	65	65
	90th	117	118	119	121	122	123	124	76	76	76	77	78	79	79
	95th	121	122	123	124	126	127	128	80	80	80	81	82	83	83
	99th	128	129	130	132	133	134	135	87	87	88	89	89	90	91
14	50th	106	106	107	109	110	111	112	63	63	63	64	65	66	66
	90th	119	120	121	122	124	125	125	77	77	77	78	79	80	80
	95th	123	123	125	126	127	129	129	81	81	81	82	83	84	84
	99th	130	131	132	133	135	136	136	88	88	89	90	90	91	92
15	50th	107	108	109	110	111	113	113	64	64	64	65	66	67	67
	90th	120	121	122	123	125	126	127	78	78	78	79	80	81	81
	95th	124	125	126	127	129	130	131	82	82	82	83	84	85	85
	99th	131	132	133	134	136	137	138	89	89	90	91	91	92	93
16	50th	108	108	110	111	112	114	114	64	64	65	66	66	67	68
	90th	121	122	123	124	126	127	128	78	78	79	80	81	81	82
	95th	125	126	127	128	130	131	132	82	82	83	84	85	85	86
	99th	132	133	134	135	137	138	139	90	90	90	91	92	93	93
17	50th	108	109	110	111	113	114	115	64	65	65	66	67	67	68
	90th	122	122	123	125	126	127	128	78	79	79	80	81	81	82
	95th	125	126	127	129	130	131	132	82	83	83	84	85	85	86
	99th	133	133	134	136	137	138	139	90	90	91	91	92	93	93

Table adapted from: National high blood pressure education program working group on high blood pressure in children and adolescents^[2]

Definitions

DBP – Diastolic Blood Pressure

SBP – Systolic Blood Pressure

Related Documents

- Hypertension - ED SCH

References

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, "National high blood pressure education program working group on high blood pressure in children and adolescents" 2007
http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/files/docs/bp_child_pocket.pdf (accessed 17/11/2014)
2. National high blood pressure education program working group on high blood pressure in children and adolescents *The Fourth Report on the Diagnosis, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure in Children and Adolescents* Pediatrics Vol. 114 No. Supplement 2 August 1, 2004 pp. 555 -576 http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/114/Supplement_2/555.full.pdf+html (accessed 17/11/2014)

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