

What's Wrong with this Picture?

Find the 8 Errors for Taking an Accurate Blood Pressure Reading



ANSWERS:

1. Error: No back support. The patient is seated on the exam table and slouching. Correction: Seat the patient in a chair to support the back.

2. Error: Wrong cuff size. The cuff is too big on the patient's arm. Correction: For adults, the bladder should be 80-100% arm circumference. For children, 100% circumference.

3. Error: The patient is wearing a long-sleeved sweater, and the cuff is over the sleeve. Correction: the cuff should be placed on the patient's skin, with no part of the sleeve under it.

4. Error: The patient is drinking coffee. Correction: The patient should not eat or drink caffeine within 30 minutes of a blood pressure reading.

5. Error: The patient and clinical staff are looking at each other and talking. Correction: Neither the clinical staff nor the patient should talk during the reading.

6. Error: The left arm is bent and raised high. Correction: The left arm should be rested and level with the heart.

7. Error: The patient is seated with legs crossed, feet dangling above the floor. Correction: The patient should have uncrossed legs and ankles. Both feet should be flat on the floor.

8. Error: The stethoscope is tucked up under the cuff, out of site. Correction: The cuff should be at least 1" above the elbow to allow for the stethoscope to be placed over the brachial artery and not under the cuff.

Getting
Down
for Life

