**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 resident. The CAREGIVER to whom the task is delegated must demonstrate the 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 the CAREGIVER performance annually or as needed to assure continued competency in performance of the task.

**General Task: MEASURING RADIAL PULSE**

**Supplies Needed**

* Wrist Watch with second hand or digital display
* Hand sanitizer

**Procedures/Steps to follow to perform the task**

1. Explain the procedure to the resident
2. Sanitize hands
3. Assist the resident to supine or sitting position
4. Gently bend the resident’s elbow to a 90 degree angle, with the resident’s wrist extended and palm up. Support the resident’s lower arm with your arm as needed.
5. Palpate the radial pulse in the following manner:
   1. Exert slight pressure with the tips of your two middle fingers on the resident’s inner wrist and over the radial artery. Do not use the thumb or index finger.
   2. Apple pressure to the pulse initially, and then relax the pressure so that the pulse becomes easily palpable.
6. When the pulse can be felt, use a watch and count the heart beats for a full minute
7. Provide resident comfort measures
8. Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer if no body fluids present
9. Document pulse on MAR or Vital signs flow sheet

**Outcomes:**

An accurate pulse reading will be obtained.

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)

Notify nurse if pulse rate is outside the parameters designated by physician or nurse for the resident.