

Breath Sounds

Nursing

Normal sounds by location, and the added sounds worth naming.

Listen side to side at matched points, over bare skin, through a full breath.

Sound	Character	Often associated with
Vesicular	Soft, over lung fields	Normal peripheral breathing
Bronchial	Harsh, over the trachea	Abnormal if heard peripherally
Crackles	Discontinuous, popping	Fluid or collapse reopening
Wheeze	Continuous, musical	Narrowed lower airways
Stridor	Harsh, inspiratory, loud	Upper airway narrowing
Pleural rub	Creaking, localised	Inflamed pleural surfaces

Educational reference. Sounds suggest, they do not diagnose. New stridor or a silent chest is escalated immediately under local emergency