

Cardiac Assessment

Nursing

Perfusion, rhythm and volume status — the bedside before the machine.

Circulation is judged by what it delivers, not only by the numbers.

Perfusion

Pulse rate, rhythm, volume, symmetry

Blood pressure, and the trend across the chart

Capillary refill, centrally and peripherally

Skin colour, temperature and moisture

Urine output over the last hours

Level of consciousness

Volume and congestion

Jugular venous pressure

Peripheral and sacral oedema

Daily weight against the fluid chart

Breathlessness lying flat

Chest crackles that do not clear

Thirst, dry mucosa, postural drop

Educational reference. A monitor reading without a palpated pulse is unverified. Report new rhythm changes and chest pain under local