

# Heart Sounds at the Bedside

Nursing

Where to listen, what S1 and S2 are, and how to describe an added sound.

*Five listening areas. Sounds come from valves closing, not opening.*

| Area                  | Position                 | Best heard   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Aortic</b>         | 2nd space, right sternal | S2 loudest   |
| <b>Pulmonary</b>      | 2nd space, left sternal  | S2 splitting |
| <b>Erb's point</b>    | 3rd space, left sternal  | Both sounds  |
| <b>Tricuspid</b>      | 4th space, left sternal  | S1 loudest   |
| <b>Mitral or apex</b> | 5th space, midclavicular | S1 loudest   |

Educational reference. S1 is the AV valves closing, S2 the semilunar valves. Report a newly noticed murmur rather than interpreting it.