

20 Read two conversations between a nurse and a patient. Answer the questions.

1. Why does Nadia have to check the patient's pulse once again?
2. What device does Nadia use to take BP and pulse?
3. How does Mr. Johnson feel?
4. When did Helen count his respirations?

Dialogue A

N: Good morning, Ms. Jennings. I'm Nadia. I'd like to take your vital signs.

Pt: What are the vital signs?

N: It's your heart rate, blood pressure, temperature and respirations. Oh, and oxygen saturations as well. We always have to check these things after admission.

Pt: Oh, I see. Please, go on then.

N: First I'm going to check your pulse. Can you hold out your hand?

Pt: Certainly.

N: I'll put two fingers on your wrist and count your heartbeats for one full minute. Please be still and try not to speak.

[after a minute]

Pt: And what's my pulse?

N: It's 54, a bit low. But it's quite weak and thready, so I'd like to check it once more with the blood pressure monitor. I'll also take your blood pressure now.

Pt: All right.

N: Could you roll up your left sleeve? I have to put the cuff on your arm.

Pt: Yes, sure.

N: I'll help you. All right. Can you keep your arm straight now? Please, try to keep it at the level of your heart. I'll switch the machine on and the blood pressure cuff will inflate. You may feel a bit of pressure on your arm. ... [sounds of a blood pressure monitor: the cuff inflating, deflating, and a beep]

Pt: So what are the readings?

N: Your pulse is 60, and your BP is 128 over 80. That's quite normal.

Dialogue B

N: Hello, Mr. Johnson. You were feverish this morning, so I'm going to check your temperature again now.

Pt: Oh, thank you, Helen. I really don't feel well. I think I have a terrible cold, I almost can't breathe.

N: I see. First, your temperature. I'm going to place the thermometer against your forehead. Now I'll press the button and we'll wait for the beep.

Pt: All right.

N: Now we'll see what your temperature is – oh, 38.5 degrees, so it went up. You've also complained of some problems with breathing?

Pt: Yes, it's awful, I'm short of breath all the time.

N: That's why I'll check your oxygen saturations.

Pt: How are you going to do that?

N: With this small device. It's a pulseoximeter. Could you give me your hand? I'll just clip the sensor onto your finger and the machine will take the reading.

Pt: Is the reading fine?

N: It's 93% percent, a bit low. On the other hand, your respiratory rate is rather high, 23 breaths per minute.

Pt: How do you know my respiratory rate?

N: I counted your respirations when we were taking your temperature, you didn't even notice.