Temperature, Tympanic

**Purpose**
The purpose of this procedure is to measure the resident’s body temperature.

**Preparation**
1. Review the resident’s care plan to assess for any special needs of the resident.
2. Assemble the equipment and supplies as needed.

**Equipment and Supplies**
The following equipment and supplies will be necessary when performing this procedure.
1. Tympanic thermometer;
2. Plastic disposable probe cover;
3. Paper and pencil or pen; and
4. Personal protective equipment (e.g., gowns, gloves, mask, etc., as needed).

**Steps in the Procedure**
1. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly before beginning the procedure.
2. Place the equipment on the bedside stand or overbed table. Arrange the supplies so that they can be easily reached.
3. Attach tympanic probe cover to thermometer unit.
4. Insert probe into ear canal applying a gentle but firm pressure.
5. Remove thermometer after reading is displayed on digital unit, approximately two (2) seconds.
6. Record the temperature reading.
7. Remove probe cover and discard in proper container.
8. Reposition the bed covers. Make the resident comfortable.
9. Place the call light within easy reach of the resident.
10. If the resident desires, return the door and curtains to the open position and if visitors are waiting, tell them they may now enter the room.
11. Wash and dry your hands thoroughly.

**Documentation**
The following information should be recorded in the resident’s medical record:
1. The date and time the temperature was measured.
2. The name and title of the individual(s) who measured the temperature.
3. That the resident’s temperature was measured tympanically.
4. The temperature reading.
5. If the resident refused the procedure, the reason(s) why and the intervention taken.
6. The signature and title of the person recording the data.

**Reporting**
1. Notify the supervisor if the resident refuses the procedure.
2. Report other information in accordance with facility policy and professional standards of practice.

**References**

| Procedure Revised | Date: 3-1-2022 |