

Performance expectations for the **CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM** practical

Explain the procedure and report the results to the patient for each exam. You will have 8 minutes to perform the following from memory:

1. Demonstrate appropriate professionalism and demeanor when speaking with the patient/proctor.
2. Properly introduce yourself to the patient/proctor and explain the procedures you will perform.
3. Assuming that you have already performed a case history, properly perform the **inspection** of the cardiovascular systems (all divisions of the thorax, lips, nails, etc.)
4. Properly perform the evaluation of the arterial system bilaterally, inclusive of carotid, radial, and dorsal pedis (or most caudal) pulses.
 - a. Report the rate, rhythm, amplitude, and contour of the radial pulses only
5. Properly perform a **complete** evaluation of the blood pressure, reporting:
 - a. Palpatory systolic
 - b. Auscultatory systolic (Phase I)
 - c. Mid-diastolic (Phase IV)
 - d. End-diastolic (Phase V)
 - e. Pulse pressure
 - f. For the practical examination only, you will perform this assessment **unilaterally**
6. Properly perform **inspection** of the heart for the point of maximum impulse (PMI)/apical impulse (identify its location to the proctor).
7. Properly perform **palpation** of the heart/precordium over the 2RICS, 2-5LICS
8. Properly perform **auscultation** of the heart with the diaphragm **and** bell.
9. Properly perform **inspection** and **evaluation** of the peripheral venous system by observing for edema and varicose veins and verbalizing those observations.
10. Properly perform **observation** of the jugular venous “pulse”, identifying its peak to the proctor.
11. Properly perform **measurement** of the right side heart activity with evaluation of the hand veins **or** measurement of the jugular venous pulse/JVP with rulers.
12. Properly perform **evaluation** of capillary refill of the upper and lower extremities.
13. Be prepared to answer questions posed by the proctors concerning normal and abnormal examination results.
14. Bring your stethoscope and your child, adult, and large adult cuffs.
15. Patients will wear gowns and will wear pants/shorts that allow lower extremity evaluations.