STETHOSCOPE PLACEMENT FOR HEART AND LUNG SOUNDS

Note: Prior to starting please mute videoconferencing microphone at patient site during heart & lung assessment.

Landmark Tips and Order of Heart Sounds - begin at the apex of the heart:

1. Mitral Valve Area (Apex) - normally located in the left 4th or 5th intercostal space (ICS) just medial to the midclavicular line (MCL). In women, you may find it helpful to ask the patient to move her breast superiorly and laterally.

2. Triscupid Valve Area (also referred to as Lower Left Sternal Border or LLSB) - normally located between the 3rd to 5th ICS along the left sternal border (LSB).

3. Pulmonic Area - normally located in the 2nd ICS along the LSB which is over the pulmonary artery.

4. Aortic Area - normally located in the 2nd ICS along the right sternal border (RSB) which overlies the aorta.

Landmark tips for Breath Sounds - ask consultant to identify preference for stethoscope placement

1. Use the diaphragm of the stethoscope to auscultate breath sounds.

2. Breath sounds should be checked with the patient sitting up.

3. Auscultate from side to side and top to bottom following the pattern shown in the diagrams.