BLOOD PRESSURE MEASUREMENT INSTRUCTIONS

INSTRUCTIONS

USE A VALIDATED MONITOR. ASK YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER OR PHARMACIST FOR HELP.

IN THE 30 MINUTES BEFORE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS TAKEN:
- NO SMOKING.
- NO EXERCISE.
- NO CAFFEINATED BEVERAGES.
- NO ALCOHOL.

FOR 5 MINUTES BEFORE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS TAKEN:
- SIT STILL IN A CHAIR.

RIGHT BEFORE:
- MAKE SURE THE CUFF IS THE RIGHT SIZE.
- WRAP IT JUST ABOVE THE BEND IN THE ELBOW.
- WRAP IT AGAINST SKIN, NOT OVER CLOTHING.

WHILE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE IS BEING TAKEN:
- RELAX.
- DON’T TALK.
- REST THE CUFFED ARM COMFORTABLY ON A FLAT SURFACE (LIKE A TABLE) AT HEART LEVEL.
- SIT UPRIGHT, BACK STRAIGHT AND SUPPORTED.
- KEEP LEGS UNCROSSED AND FEET FLAT ON THE FLOOR.

AFTER:
- IF AT HOME, WAIT ONE MINUTE AND TAKE A SECOND READING. AVERAGE THE READINGS.
- CONSIDER A THIRD READING.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- KEEP A JOURNAL. BRING IT TO EVERY CHECKUP.
- HAVE YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER CHECK YOUR MONITOR ANNUALLY.

GoRedforWomen.org

American Heart Association recommended blood pressure levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BLOOD PRESSURE CATEGORY</th>
<th>SYSTOLIC mm Hg (upper number)</th>
<th>DIASTOLIC mm Hg (lower number)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NORMAL</td>
<td>LESS THAN 120</td>
<td>LESS THAN 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELEVATED</td>
<td>120-129</td>
<td>LESS THAN 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE</td>
<td>130-139</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(HYPERTENSION) STAGE 1</td>
<td>140 OR HIGHER</td>
<td>90 OR HIGHER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE</td>
<td>HIGHER THAN 180</td>
<td>HIGHER THAN 120</td>
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<tr>
<td>(HYPERTENSION) STAGE 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>HYPERTENSIVE CRISIS</td>
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<tr>
<td>(consult your doctor immediately)</td>
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*BLOOD PRESSURE HIGHER THAN 180/120 mm Hg IS A CRISIS.*

*Wait five minutes and take your blood pressure again. If your readings are still high, contact your healthcare provider immediately.

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