Proper Technique for Accurate Blood Pressure Measurement

Blood pressure measurement is a routine task in most practices, but are you sure it’s being done accurately?

When your blood pressure (BP) is measured, be aware of the following guidelines:

- Validated, automated device should be used to measure your BP
- Correct size cuff
- Cuff placed on your bare arm
- You should be seated comfortably and quietly for at least five minutes – no texting
  - Back is supported
  - Arm is supported
  - Cuff placed at your heart level
  - Legs uncrossed
  - Feet flat on the ground or supported by a foot stool
  - No one should be talking during the measurement

If your blood pressure is 140/90 mm Hg or higher, it should be confirmed.

- BP measurement steps should be repeated
- You should ensure your bladder is empty
- You should rest quietly for at least five minutes
- At least three BP measurements should be taken and averaged