



Integrative Pediatrics, LLC

Safe passage in a changing world.

Taking Your Child's Temperature.

Normal Temps:

Axillary - 97.6

Oral - 98.6

Rectal - 99.6

If you are taking a temperature in the armpit you add a degree, if you take a temperature in the rectum you minus a degree.

When reporting a temperature to medical personnel, report the number that reads out without altering it and tell how you took the temperature (oral, axillary, rectal).

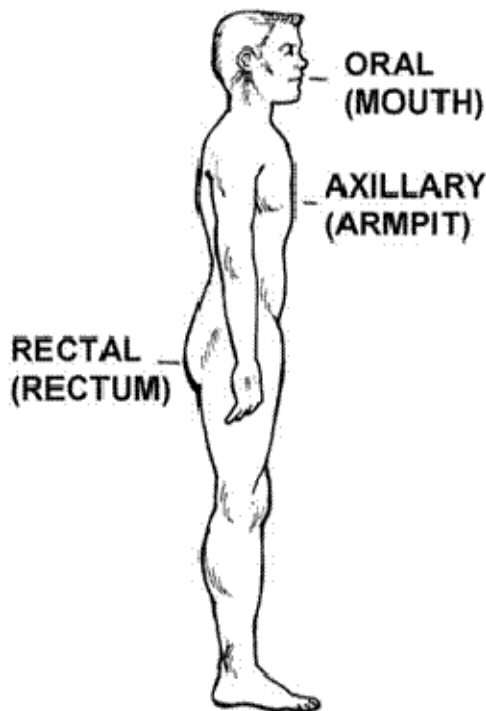
There are three locations for taking the patient's temperature.

a. Mouth. A temperature taken by placing a thermometer in the patient's mouth is called an **oral** temperature. The thermometer is placed under the tongue (for school-age children and above.)

b. Armpit. A temperature taken by placing a thermometer under the patient's arm in his armpit area is called an **axillary** temperature. The thermometer must have direct skin contact.

c. Rectum. A temperature taken by holding a thermometer within the patient's rectum is called a **rectal** temperature. A special rectal thermometer would be used for this method and this is only for ages 2 months and younger.

Forehead scan and ear (tympanic thermometers can be a little less reliable.



The location the temperature is taken causes a slight difference in a patient's temperature reading. The axillary temperature reading would be about 1° F (0.6° C) lower than the oral temperature reading while the rectal temperature reading would be about 1 °F (0.6° C) higher than the oral temperature reading.

It is not necessary to take your child's temperature by all methods.