NEXTGEN VITAL SIGNS DEMONSTRATION

This demonstration reviews the documentation of vital signs in NextGen. This is similar across all specialties.

This has been prepared for EHR 5.8 & KBM 8.3. Subsequent updates may display cosmetic & functional changes.

Use the keyboard or mouse to pause, review, & resume as necessary.

Before We Get Started

- There are 3 variations of the Vital Signs popups, for children under 2, children over 2, & adults.
- NextGen has never delivered a version in which all of these popups behave consistently & are free of errors.
 - One would think a company would be professionally embarrassed by this, & highly motivated to rapidly correct such flaws. One would think...
- Sometimes errors that are corrected in one version are re-introduced in a subsequent "update."

Commonly Seen Flaws

- It is intuitive to hit the tab key to move from one field to the next, but programmers frequently forget to review the tab order. So if you're working quickly & not watching carefully, you may hit the tab key & start typing in a field that is different from what you expected.
 - So watch carefully if you use the tab key.
- Sometimes you have clicked the Save button, but when you try to close the popup, it nags you to save again anyway.
 - While this is a minor nuisance, what else are you going to do? Just play along with them.

Commonly Seen Flaws

- The hearing & vision screens may nag you for diagnoses, & give you other notices about submitting to superbill, even if you've cleared the Submit to Superbill button. Especially for commercial insurance on older children & adults, we often don't charge separately for these services, anyway.
 - Yet another minor time-wasting nuisance.
 Just get in the routine of clicking through these notices where necessary.

But Here's The Biggie

- English-metric unit conversions should take place automatically, but they have at times required a manual button click.
 - By & large, this is resolved, & now there is no manual conversion button.
- However, as of this writing June 2014, there are SERIOUS flaws in at least the adult versions of these popups that can lead to incorrect documentation of vital signs, to the detriment of patient care.

The least dangerous is for temperature. If you record temperature in **Fahrenheit**, things work fine. But if you happen to record temperature in **Celsius**, once you hit the decimal point, it goes haywire.



This is sloppy programming to the point of being amusing. But at least you'll notice something this bizarre, & it won't be likely to impact patient care. For now, just make sure to enter temperature in Fahrenheit.

Height can be more problematic. Note there is the provision for entering height in **feet & inches** or in **total inches**.



While the versatility is useful, this presents an opportunity for erroneous entry by the user:

• One might enter total inches in the "feet/inches" inches field. So a patient might be listed as 0 feet, 63 inches. Odd, but technically correct.

• One might enter both feet & total inches, so that the patient appears to be 5 feet, 63 inches. Pretty darn tall.

• The program was inconsistent as to how it addressed this. Sometimes it fixed things for you. Sometimes it gave you a warning. Sometimes your patient ended up 123 inches tall.

Total centimeters was presenting inconsistent results as well.

'Adult Vital Signs	" - [New Rec	ord]		
Height/length n	neasurements	:		
ft	in	total in	cm P	Position: C Standing C Lying
Last Measured:	03/31/2014	C Measured tod	ay <mark>O</mark> Car	rried forward

To adapt to this, we've taught our uses to use **total inches** as the preferred height measurement. And the good news is that NextGen now gives you a warning if you enter a value greater than 12 in the "feet/inches" **inches** field.

But now NextGen has introduced a serious flaw on the total inches field that will result in incorrect documentation if **total inches** is used.

If you enter **total inches**, conversions do not take place, & **BMI** is not calculated.



Other ramifications:

- Even if **total inches** displays, if you modify it, the other measurements don't update in response to this change.
- These errors are re-introduced on subsequent encounters if the **Carried forward** bullet is used.

While it looks obvious in the above example, this error is easily overlooked by the user who is working in a hurry & is accustomed to trusting the **total inches** field.

"Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]	
Height/length measurements:	BMI/BSA calculation:
Last Measured: 05/23/2014 Measured today Carried forward	BSA: () m ² Calculate

Serious patient care consequences:

- Even if **total inches** displays, if you modify it, the other measurements don't update in response to this change.
- These errors are re-introduced on subsequent encounters if the Carried forward bullet is used.

We have brought this matter to NextGen's attention & have demanded rapid attention. We hope this inexcusable programming flaw will be rapidly addressed.

Until then, users should use enter height in feet & inches! We will notify you when it is safe to resume using total inches again.

"Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]	
Height/length measurements:	BMI/BSA calculation:
ft in 63 total in 0 cm Position: C Standing C Lying	BMI: kg/m ² & BMI Plan
Last Measured: 05/23/2014 C Measured today C Carried forward	BSA: Calculate

Now that THAT nasty piece of business is out of the way, let's proceed with our lesson.

Nurses will usually enter vital signs from the **Intake tab**. Click the Add button.

06/15/2014 11:23 AM : "*U	SA Intake 836" 🗙						
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Vital Signs							۲
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Time Wt Ibs Ht in	BMI Wtkg Htcr	n BP Pulse	Resp TempF T	empC O-sat Pai	in Level Comments		
1					Add	Edit	Remove

These initial examples will use adults. The process is largely analogous in children, though a few distinctions will be presented near the end.

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Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: %	Pulse Ox: C Room air C Oxygen:	ne, you 11 see a plain further.
Pain Score: Image: Constraint of the state of the	Method: HAQ-DI ()	NEXT BMI: kg/m ² * BMI Plan
FiO2 Room Air: % L/min Peak Flow: L/min C Pre-tx C Post-tx Comments:	Delivery Method: Method:	BSA: m ² Calculate
(4) 4 (Clear For Add Delete Save Close >>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>>	Audiometry Exam Vision Screening

Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]		×
Height/length measurements: ft in total in cm Position: C Standing C Lying Last Measured: // C Measured today C Carried forward	BMI/BSA calculation: BMI: kg/m² ◆ BMI Plan BSA: m² Calculate	Unobtainable: Patient Refused:
Weight measurement:		
Temperature: F C Site:		Neck/Waist/Hip Circumference Audiameter Form
Systolic Diastolic Position: Side: / mm/Hg C Sitting C Standing C Lying C Right	Site: at C Left	Vision Screening Orthostatic Vital Signs
Pulse: Pulse pattern: Method: Cuff s /min C Regular C Irregular C Manual C Automatic C Home monitor Cuff s	size: ediatric 🗖 Adult 🗖 Large 🗖 Thigh	
Respiration and Pulse Ox: Respiration: /min Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: %	Peak Flow: L/min C Pre-treatment C Post-treatment	LMP date: / /
Pulse Ox: C Room air C Oxygen - Method: Pulse Ox measured: C Pre-treatment C Post-treatment	Method:	O Premenopausal O Perimenopausal
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Pain score: Method:	♦ HAQ-DI)	Measured date:	Time:
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to indicate menopausal st	atus.			
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Weight measurement: Ib kg Context: C Dressed with shoes C Dressed without shoes	♦ Exclusions
Temperature: F C Site:	Neck/Waist/Hip Circumference Audiometry Exam
Systolic: Diastolic: Position: Side: Site: /mm/Hg C Sitting C Standing C Lying C Right C Left	Vision Screening Orthostatic Vital Signs
Pulse: Pulse pattern: Method: Cuff size: /min C Regular C Irregular C Manual C Automatic C Home monitor Pediatric C Adult C Large C Thigh Ref Enter height in the method of choice. You may Ref position if desired. Pulse Ox Amb: %	also enter
 You can indicate that height was measured tode adults, you can choose to carry forward a previ measured height. 	C Premenopausal C Perimenopausal xy, or for pausal ously ate: Time: 111:24 AN Measured by:
Either way, always record height! It is used to BMI.	calculate

Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]	<u>×</u>
Height/length measurements: 5 ft 5 in 65.00 total in 165.1 cm Position: I Standing C Lying BMI: 30.29 kg/m ² * BMI Plan	🗂 Unobtainable:
Last Measured: 06/15/2014 C Measured today C Carried forward BSA: Calculate	Patient Refused:
Weight measurement: 182 Ib 82.554 kg Context: C Dressed with shoes Dressed without shoes Patient is obese.	
Temperature: F C Cite:	♦ Neck/Waist/Hip Circumference
Blood Pressure and pulse:	Audiometry Exam
Systolic: Diastolic: Position: Side: Site: / mm/Hg C Sitting C Standing C lying C Right C Left Image: Constraint C left	Orthostatic Vital Signs
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ain scale:	Measured date: Time:
Once height & weight are entered, the	06/15/2014 11:24 AM
BMI will be calculated. You can also click	Measured by:
the BSA Calculate button to calculate body	Robert L. Duffy
surface area, if desired.	
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Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]		<u>×</u>
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Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]		<u>×</u>
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Weight measurement: 182 Ib 82.554 kg Context: C Dressed with shoes C Dressed without shoes	Patient is obese.	
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Respiration and Pulse Or: Respiration: /min Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: % Pulse Ox: C Room air C Oxygen - Method: Pulse Ox measured: C Pe-treatment C Post-treatment Pulse Ox measured: C Pe-treatment C Post-treatment Enter blood pressure; you also have the option to enter further detail about how it was taken. <	Peak Flow: L/min C Pre-treatment C Post-treatment Method: Ve	LMP date: / / C Premenopausal O Perimenopausal Postmenopausal Measured date: Time: 06/15/2014 11:24 AM Measured by: Robert L. Duffy
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Pulse: Pulse pattern: Method: Cuff 102 /min C Regular C Irregular Irregular Manual C Automatic C Home monitor P Respiration and Pulse Ox: Respiration is out of normal range. Respiration: 22 /min Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: % Pulse Ox: C Fbom air C Oxygen - Method:	size: Pediatric I Adult I Large I Thigh Peak Flow: L/min C Pre-treatment C Post-treatment Method:	LMP date: // C Premenopausal C Perimenopausal © Postmenopausal
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Notice all the **red** warnings of abnormal vital signs. These also take into account whether the patient is diabetic, as that colors the interpretation of the BP. (Though note they don't appear to have been updated to 2013's JNC 8 guidelines.)

5 ft 5 in 65.00 total in 165.1 cm Position: Image: Standing C Lying BMI: 30.29 kg/m ² * BMI Plan Last Measured: 06/15/2014 Image: Measured today Image: C Carried forward BSA: Image: mage: Calculate	Patient Refused:
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Temperature: 98.8 F 37.1 C Site: ear Blood Pressure and pute: Image: I	 Neck/Waist/Hip Circumference Audiometry Exam Vision Screening Orthostatic Vital Signs
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Respiration: 22 min Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: % Pulse Ox: C Room air C Oxygen - Method: Method: Pulse Ox measured: C Pre-treatment Method:	t LMP date: // O Premenopausal O Perimenopausal O Postmenopausal
Dain scalar	

Sometimes you'll need to take these alerts with a grain of salt; you can't really set values appropriate for all ages & circumstances, so you may get alerts about VS that aren't particularly alarming in a given scenario.

"Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]				×
Several other	measurements	can be	: □	Unobtainable:
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dult Vital Signs" - [New Record]		
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ain score: () Method:	◆ HAQ-DI	Measured date: Time: 06/15/2014 11:24 AM
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		Measured by: Robert L. Duffy
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Adult vital signs - [new Record]		<u>></u>
Height/length measurements:	BMI/BSA calculation:	🗖 Unobtainable:
5 ft 5 in 65.00 total in 165.1 cm Position: • Standing C Lying Last Measured: 06/15/2014 • Measured today • C Carried forward	BMI: 30.29 kg/m ² ♦ BMI Plan BSA: () m ² Calculate	Patient Refused:
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Hearing & vision screens can be		
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Blood Pressure and pulse: Blood pressure is elevated. Pulse is out of normal range.		Audiometry Exam
Systolic: Diastolic: Position: Side: 162 / 90 mm/Hg Image: Sitting C Standing C Lying Side:	Site: ht C Left arm	Vision Screening Orthostatic Vital Signs
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Tone Audiometry - F	E					X	
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☐ Submit audiome	try test to Superbi	ill		All Diagnoses Patient's Diagnoses Patient's Chronic Dia Favorites My List - Impo Favorite 2 Categories	gno rte	Clinical Description and ICD Code Unspecified hearing loss 389.9 Unspecified hearing loss, bilateral H91.93 Unspecified hearing loss, left ear H91.92 Unspecified hearing loss, right ear H91.91 Other examination of ears and hearing V72.19 Encounter in examination of ears and hearing with other abnormal findings 201.118	Billing Description Unspecified hearing los Unspecified hearing los Unspecified hearing los Unspecified hearing los EXAM EARS & HEARING BEART for exam of ears
For so	creen	ing yo	u pro	bably	s/L	Encounter for routine child health examination without abnormal findings Z00.129 Encounter for health supervision and care of foundling Z76.1 Encounter for examination of ears and hearing without abnormal findings Z01.10 Encounter for hearing conservation and treatment V72.12	Encounter for nealth su Encounter for health su Encounter for exam of e
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Unfortunately, you may get nagged about diagnosis & superbill submission even if you don't want to charge for the test & you clear the checkboxes. Sigh....

Data entry, diagnosis, & superbill considerations are analogous on the Vision Screening popup.

	0.0000	
Color Vision Test Color vision scree Top Middl Botton	Quick Note: Results: Right: p: le:	Apply Save
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99173	1	
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	Color Vision Test Color vision scree Top Middl Botton & Code: 99173 Code:	Color Vision Test Results: Color vision screen: Pass Right: Top: Middle: Bottom: Bottom: Code: 99173 Code: Status:

Note there is a link to display a color vision screen.

"Adult Vital Signs" - [1 of 1] × Unobtainable: Height/length measurements: BMI/BSA calculation: BMI: 30.29 kg/m² ◆ BMI Plan total in 165.1 cm Position: Standing C Lying 5 ft 5 in 65.00 Patient Refused: Last Measured: 06/15/2014 Measured today C Carried forward A BSA: m² Calculate Weight measurement: Patient is obese. ♦ Exclusions () Context: C Dressed with shoes O Dressed without shoes 182 lb 82.554 kg Note about failed hearing & vision screens: With all of the red vital sign alerts popping up everywhere, it is intuitive to believe that you'll get an alert if the hearing or vision tests are abnormal. That is, unfortunately, not the case. Nurses need to include this fact in the Intake Comments or verbally communicate it to the provider to help keep this from being overlooked. Providers, note that the hearing & vision results are posted to your physical exam, so you'll get a chance to notice it

Close

there—just later than you might be expecting.

Delete

Save

Clear For Add

Robert L. D.

dult Vital Signs" - [1 of 1]		
Height/length measurements: 5 ft 5 in 65.00 total in 165.1 cm Position: Standing C Lying Last Measured: 06/15/2014 © Measured today C Carried forward	BMI/BSA calculation: BMI: 30.29 kg/m ² ♦ BMI Plan BSA: () m ² Calculate	 Unobtainable: Patient Refused:
Weight measurement: 182 Ib 82.554 kg Context: C Dressed with shoes • Dressed without shoes	Patient is obese.	
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Pulse: Pulse pattern: Method: Cuff s 102 /min O Regular O Irregular Irregular Irregular Manual O Automatic O Home monitor Peter Respiration and Pulse Ox: Respiration is out of normal range. Respiration: 22 /min Pulse Ox Restriction % Pulse Ox Amb: % Pulse Ox: C Room air C Oxygen Method: % Pulse Ox measured: C Pre treatment C Post-treatment	size: ediatric I Adult Large Thigh Peak Flow: L/min C Pre-treatment O Post-treatment Method:	LMP date: // C Premenopausal C Perimenopausal Perimenopausal
Pain scale: Pain score: ① ① Method: ②	◆ HAQ-DI	Measured date: Time: 06/15/2014 11:24 AM
Comments:		Measured by: Robert L. Duffy
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Time Wt lbs Ht in 11:24 AM 182.00 65.00	BMI Wt kg 30.29 82.554	Ht cm BP 165.10 162/90	Pulse Resp 102 22	TempF Ten 98.8 37.1	pC 0-sat	Pain Level	Comment	s		story Gra	
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Adult Vital Signs" - [New Record]		<u>></u>
Height/length measurements: ftintotal incm Position: O Standing O Lying Last Measured: 06/15/2014 O Measured today O Carried forward Weight measurement:	BMI/BSA calculation: BMI: kg/m ² BMI Plan BSA: () m ² Calculate	 Unobtainable: Patient Refused: Exclusions ()
Ib kg Context: C Dressed with shoes C Dressed without shoes Temperature: F C Site: Site: Blood Pressure and public: Blood pressure is elevated. Side: Side: 142 84 mm/Hg C Sitting C Standing C Lying C Right	site: t C Left	 Neck/Waist/Hip Circumference Audiometry Exam Vision Screening Orthostatic Vital Signs
84 /min © Regular © Inegular © Manual © Automatic © Home monitor Peter Respiration and Pulse Ox: Respiration: 20 /min Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: % Pulse Ox: Respiration: 20 /min Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: % Pulse Ox: Respiration: 20 /min Pulse Ox Rest: % Pulse Ox Amb: %	ediatric Adult Large Thigh Peak Flow: L/min Pre-treatment Post-treatment Method:	LMP date: / /
Pain scale: Pain score: Metho Comments: Metho	s. 5 you need to r ose.	Measured by:
Clear For Add Delete Save	Close ++	Robert L. Duffy

Specia	ity v Family	y Practi	ice	Visit	Гуре 🔻 О	ffice Visit							e) тов	Ø HTN	😡 DM	ØCA	D
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For children under 2 the Vital Signs popup looks a bit different. There are places for head circumference, height, weight, & head percentiles, & a link to growth charts. (Over age 2 is analogous, splitting the difference between this version & the adult version.)

	<u> </u>	
Gestational age at birth: weeks		
Height/Length measurements: Growth Precentile: Growth Chu	art 🗌 Unobtainable:	
2 ft 1.5 in 25.50 total in 64.77 cm Position: C Standing C Lying Height: Head: Weight:		
Last measured: 06/01/2014 • Measured today C Carried forward	Patient Refused:	
Weight measurement: Context: BSA Calculation:		
I6 Ib oz 7.257 kg C Dressed with shoes C Dressed without shoes BSA: m² Calculate		
Head Circumference: 16.69 in 42.4 cm		
Temperature: 98.0 F 36.7 C Site: Far Click the Grow	th Charts	link
Blood Pressure and pulse:	in chur 15	mun.
Systolic Diastolic Position: Side: Site:	-	
/ mm/Hg C sitting C standing C Lying C Right C Lett		
//mm/Hg C standing C Lying C Right C Left Pulse: Pulse pattern: Method Cuff size: 94 /min C Regular C Irregular C Manual C Automatic C Home monitor Pediatric Adult Large Thi	gh	
// mm/Hg O sitting O standing O Lying O Right O Left Pulse: Pulse pattern: Method Cuff size: 94 /min C Regular C Irregular C Manual C Automatic C Home monitor Pediatric Adult Respiration and pulse Ox: C Control optimized and pulse Comparison optimized and pulse	gh	
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🚛 N	lextGen EHR: Inna Quagmire MRN: 000	000009364 DOB: 01/02/2012 (Female) AGE: 15 month
File	Edit Default View Tools Admin	Utilities Window Help
20	New Select Patient Alt + P	dicine 🔹 DUFFY, ROBERT LAMAR MD 💌 🧟
	Modify Patient	ke X
	Close Patient	Note that growth charts are also
F	Save	accessible through the file menu
X	Close	This may be preferable, since this wi
	Print Custom Print \ Fax Export Patient Documents	display the graphs in a larger, more easily viewable format.
	Generate CCD	If "More" appears in the column, launch the popup from the liv
	Graph	Templates
	Reports •	Order Besults
	ChartMail •	Growth Charts - BMI
	Family Unit	Growth Charts - Height
	Patient Portal	Growth Charts - Weight
	Patient Education	Growth Charts - Head Circum.
	Patient Group	Growth Charts - Weight for Length
	Summary •	
	Superbill	

03/14/2014 03:57 PM : "*Intake" 03/14/2014 03:57 PM : "Pregnancy/Birth History" ×			
C Detailed document C Reviewed C History unobtainable Antenatal	Last detailed doc date: Hospital course /// Vitamin K injection: O No O Yes		
Maternal age: EDC: Gravida: Para: Prenatal care Maternal blood typ Ultrasound Group B strep screenes New Series	, if the birth history records was premature, premature will display for young children.		
Antenatal labs: C No C Yes	Oxygen required: C No C Yes		
Maternal illness/complications: O No O Yes			
Maternal infections: C No C Yes	Stayed in NICU: C No C Yes		
Medications during pregnancy:	Stayed in nursery: Days: Reason:		
Confidential Info.	Birth defects: C No C Yes		
	State screening done: O No O Ves		
Labor and delivery	Medication given: O No. O Ver		
Type of delivery: O SGA C AGA	C LGA Medication given: C No C res		
C SROM C ARC	DM hrs		
Apgar score:	Turner's syndrome L Down's syndrome		
1 min: 5 min:	10 min: Discharge		
Time of birth: Hour: Mins: C AM C PM Mecon	ium: O No O Yes Feeding history: O Breast O Bottle O Both		
Time of birth: Hours of labor:	Formula type:		
Maternal f	ever: O No O Yes Discharge date: // Time: Hour: Mins: O AM C PM		
Gestational age 22 when dave V Pramatura	Discharge time: Discharge weight:Ibsoz		
at birth.	tion: C No C Yes Social service referral: C No C Yes		
Birth weight: 3.8 lbs oz 1.701 kgs	Adoption: C No C Yes		
Length: 16.8 in 42.67 cm	Follow up phone call made: Date: / / Time:		
Head circ: in cm Save	Newborn Call Template		



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Close

This concludes the NextGen vital signs demonstration.

Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.

R. Lamar Duffy, M.D. Associate Professor University of South Alabama College of Medicine Department of Family Medicine