

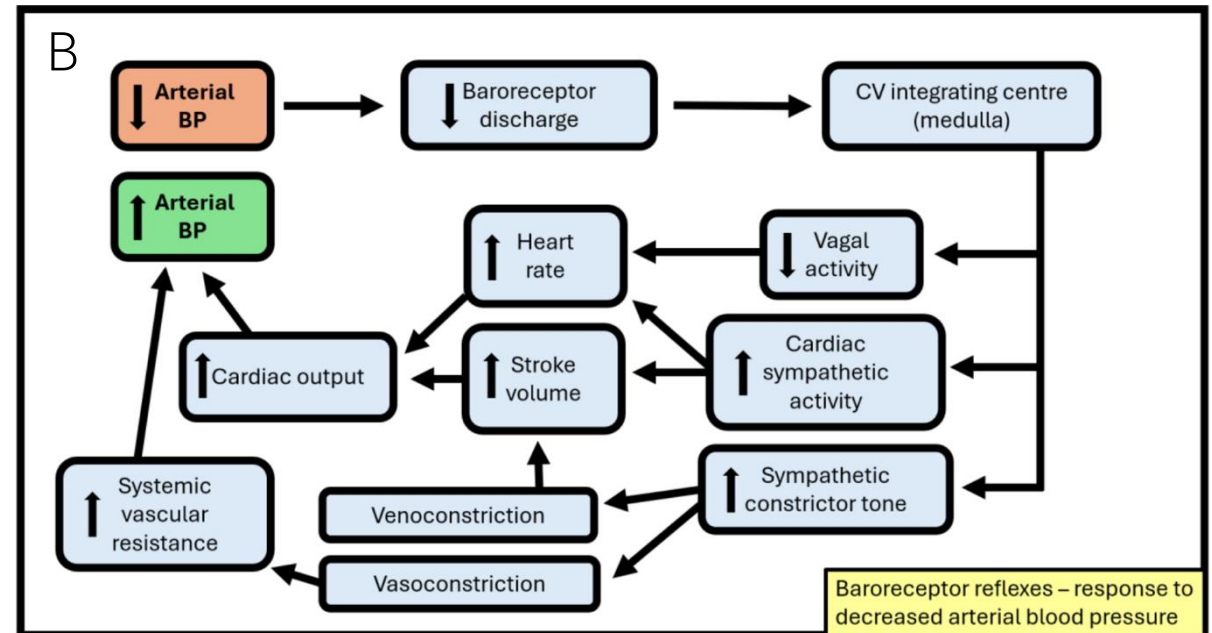
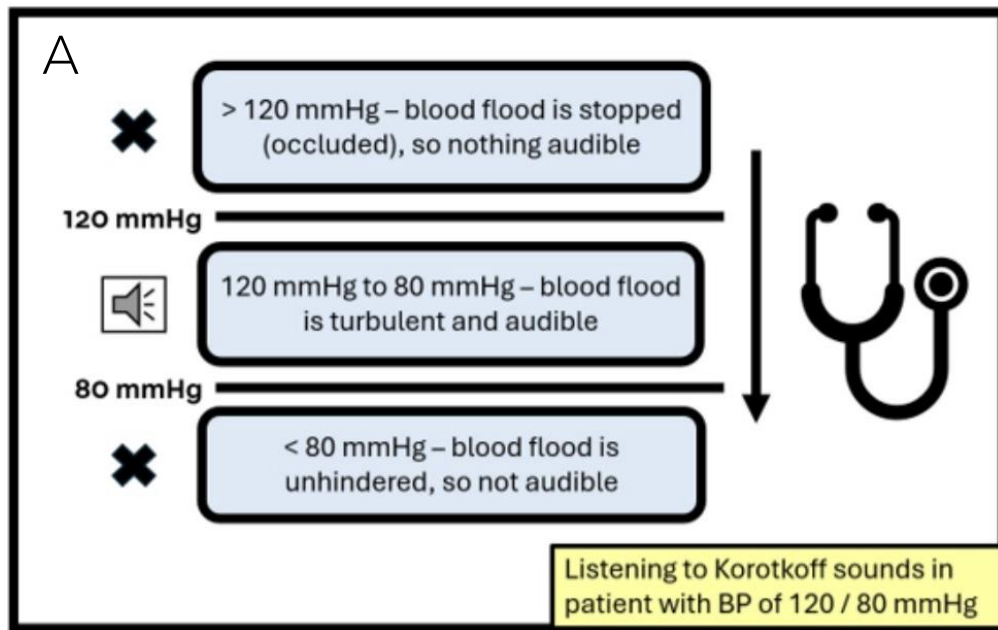
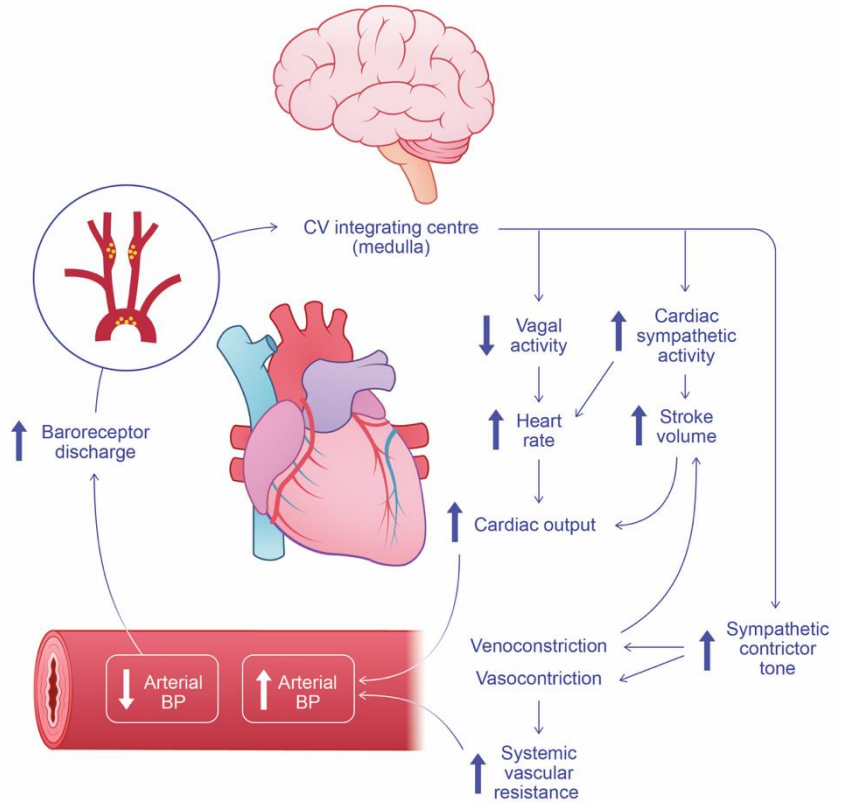
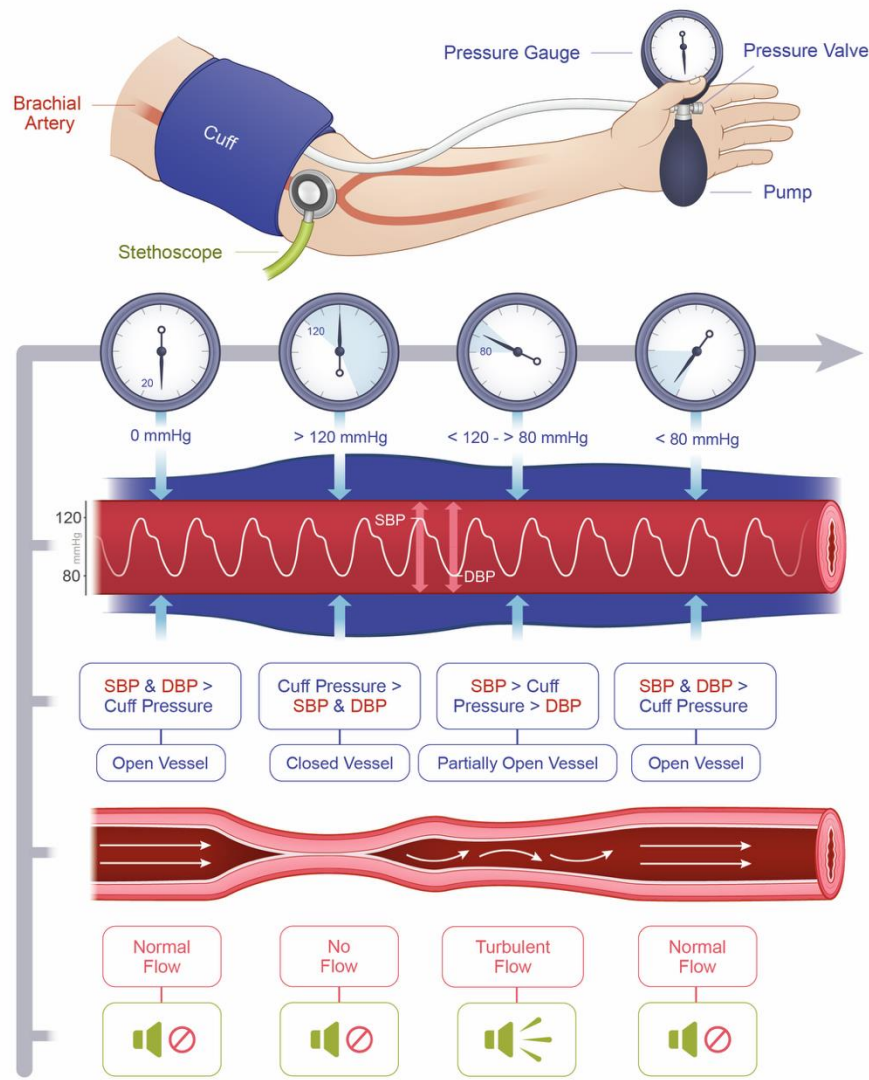


Figure 1. The original diagrams on measuring BP (A) and the baroreceptor reflex (B) that feature in the Vital Signs booklet (right).



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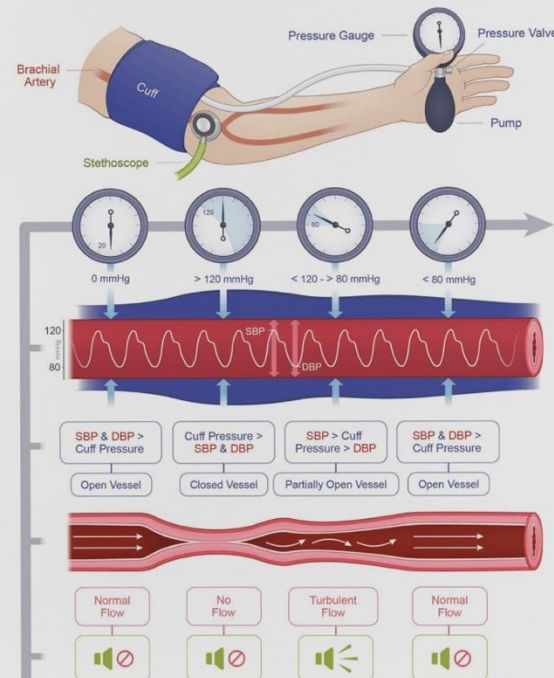
Figure 2. Revised blood pressure measurement (left) and baroreceptor (right) diagrams, with their original versions attached.

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When an external pressure which is higher than the systolic blood pressure is applied to an artery, then blood flow along the artery is blocked.

Conversely, when an external pressure which is lower than the diastolic pressure is applied to an artery, then blood flow is unhindered and smooth.

However, if an external pressure which is between the systolic blood pressure and diastolic pressure is applied to an artery, then blood flow is neither blocked nor smooth - instead, it is turbulent. This turbulence is audible with a stethoscope.



Physiological responses to low blood pressure

The different components that make up a set of vital signs are inter-related. For example, if someone suddenly loses a lot of blood from a hemorrhage, their arterial blood pressure can drop quickly. There are then physiological changes that occur within the body as a response.

From the diagram below, it is possible to see how a patient with low blood pressure from a hemorrhage is also likely to have tachycardia (fast heart rate).

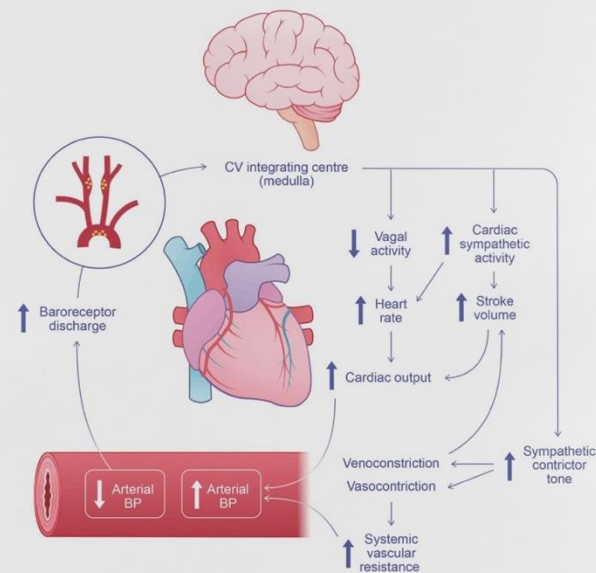


Figure 3. A mock-up showing the integration of the revised diagrams into the Vital Signs booklet.

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