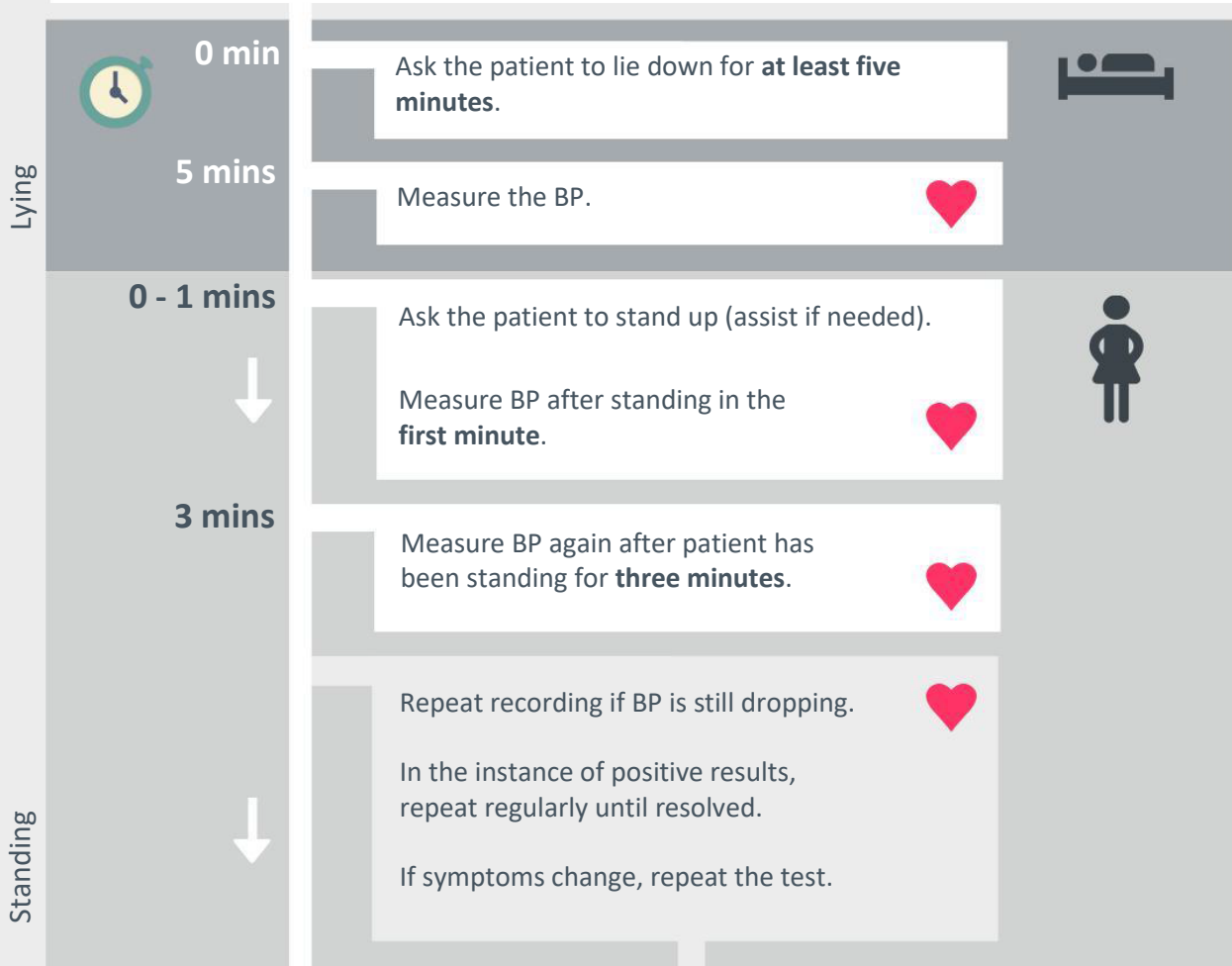




How to measure a lying and standing blood pressure (BP) as part of a falls assessment

1. Identify if you are going to need assistance to stand the patient and simultaneously record a BP.
2. Use a manual sphygmomanometer if possible and definitely if the automatic machine fails to record.
3. Explain the procedure to the patient.



Notice and document **symptoms** of dizziness, light-headedness, vagueness, pallor, visual disturbance, feelings of weakness and palpitations.

Advise patient of results and if the result is positive:

- a. inform the medical and nursing team.
- b. take immediate actions to prevent falls and/or unsteadiness.

A positive result is:

- a. A drop in systolic BP of 20mmHg or more (with or without symptoms).
- b. A drop to below 90mmHg on standing even if the drop is less than 20mmHg (with or without symptoms).
- c. A drop in diastolic BP of 10mmHg with symptoms (although clinically less significant than a drop in systolic BP).