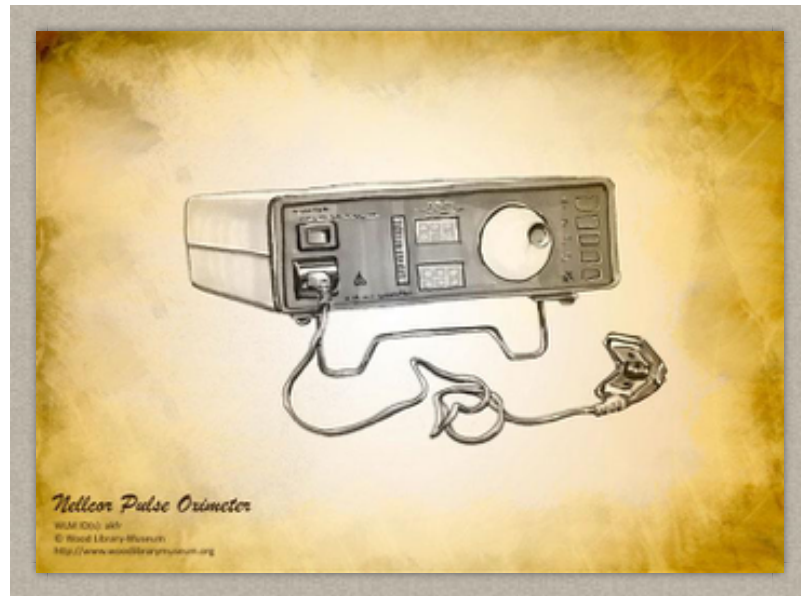


## THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Museum > Safety & Monitoring > Nellcor Pulse Oximeter



## NELLCOR PULSE OXIMETER

WLM ID: akfr | [Catalog Record](#)

Pulse oximeters revolutionized how anesthesiologists ensure that their patients get enough oxygen. Before the practical pulse oximeter was developed, physicians had to use expensive and time-consuming methods to measure oxygen levels, which posed adverse risks for the patient. With no skin puncture necessary, pulse oximeters use fast pulsed wavelengths of light to detect and calculate what percentage of a patient's oxygen-transporting hemoglobin is saturated with oxygen.

In 1981, anesthesiologist William New and two colleagues formed a new company called Nellcor. Their first pulse oximeter, called the Nellcor N-100, in 1983. It quickly became a favored device. The device was not only accurate and relatively portable, it incorporated a feature brand new to pulse oximetry technology: specifically, a sound indicator that reflected the rate of the pulse as well as the SpO<sub>2</sub>. If the SpO<sub>2</sub> dropped, the pitch of the pulsing sound. Nellcor released the N-180, pictured here, around 1987.

---

FRIENDS

FELLOWSHIP

LAUREATE

DEVELOPMENT

LINKS

DONATE



WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM  
OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

Copyright © 2017 Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology (WLM), All Rights Reserved.

1061 American Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60173-4973, USA

Phone: 1.847.825.5586; Fax: 847.825.2085; E-mail: [wlm@asahq.org](mailto:wlm@asahq.org)

The content on this Wood Library-Museum website reflects historical uses of objects and materials and may not reflect current medical practice. The content should not be relied upon in any manner as medical advice.

Am  
Anesth

Website Development by EdensWorks, Inc.

**DOCKET**  
**A L A R M**

Find authenticated court documents without watermarks at [docketalarm.com](http://docketalarm.com).