

Advice following a device generator change

You have recently undergone a generator change of your device. This leaflet gives important information and advice following your procedure.

What happens next?

You will have an appointment with a senior cardiac physiologist in the cardiac devices clinic in six weeks' time.

An appointment date will be sent out in due course or given to you at discharge. Please call us if you have not received this appointment within four weeks.

Wound care

Keep the wound site dry for the next seven days to avoid infection. We recommend strip washes for seven days. The wound is closed with:

- Dissolvable stitches:** These are absorbable and have been covered with a dressing. The stitches will dissolve over time.
- Glue:** The wound does not need to be dressed, the glue will gradual flake off as the wound heals.

If you notice any signs of infection around the implant site, e.g. redness, itchiness, heat or discharge, please call the cardiac devices clinic as soon as possible.

You may experience pain and discomfort at the wound site for a few days after the implant, and you may have localised or more extensive bruising (especially if you are on blood thinners), or inflammation for up to several weeks after the procedure.

We recommend taking paracetamol to help with this pain. If you are taking regular pain relief for other medical conditions, we would advise not taking any further pain relief.

It is normal to feel a bulge under your skin where your device is. It may be uncomfortable while wearing a bra or using a seatbelt. We recommend using some padding until the wound site has healed.

Clinical advice

- We will give you a new ID card that contains all the details regarding your new device. **Carry this with you at all times** and show it to any medical staff (nurses, doctors, dentists etc.), as they will need to know what type of device you have to treat you effectively.
- Please continue all your medications as requested by your cardiologist and please bring a copy of your medication to each clinic appointment.

Please remember

A pacemaker / ICD does not prevent you from having a heart attack.

You should call 999 for an ambulance immediately if you develop sudden severe chest pain, particularly if:

- The pain feels heavy, pressing or tight.
- The pain lasts longer than 15 minutes.
- The pain spreads to other parts of your body, such as your arms, back or jaw.
- You also have other symptoms, such as breathlessness, nausea, sweating, or coughing up blood.

Driving

You do not need to notify the DVLA that you have had a device replacement.

Group 1 licence	No driving for 1 week
Group 2 licence	No driving for 1 week
Group 2 licence with ICD/CRTD	Not allowed to drive group 2 vehicles, as per DVLA rules.

Please strictly follow your cardiologist's advice with regards to driving guidance.

For full DVLA information visit www.gov.uk/guidance/cardiovascular-disorders-assessing-fitness-to-drive

Further information

For further information please refer to the Pacemaker / ICD device booklet or ring the cardiac devices clinic on 0118 322 6636. If we are unable to take your call, leave your name and telephone number and we will get back to you. You can also contact the CAT 11 Admin Team who will notify us directly.

Contact numbers

CAT 11 Admin Team: 0118 322 6679 (to change your appointments) Monday to Friday (9-5pm)

Cardiac Devices Clinic: 0118 322 6636 (clinical advice and guidance) Monday to Friday (8-6pm)

Cardiac Care Unit: 0118 322 6528 (Emergencies advice only out of hours)

Cardiac Support: 0118 322 6638.

Email: rbft.pacemakerclinic@nhs.net (This account is not monitored daily)

This leaflet is printed privately for the Cardiac Fund. It was set up in 1976 for the purpose of providing cardiac services that would otherwise not be available through National Health resources. Our Cardiac Laboratory was largely equipped through the fund and many other areas in the Department have also benefited from equipment and staff training.



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The Royal Berks Charity Cardiac Fund U226

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Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

Cardiac Device Clinic / CRM team, May 2022.

Next review due: May 2024