

Discharge Advice following Pacemaker Implantation

Care of the Pacemaker wound

You may experience some discomfort around the wound for the first few days. This can be relieved with simple painkillers eg. Paracetamol.

There may also be some bruising. Please check the wound daily for the first 10 days. Wash the wound with warm water after three days, gently around the area.

After the shower remove the old dressing and apply a clean dressing provided to you, do not use any soaps, shampoo or any bio cream.

If you notice any redness, swelling or discharge from the wound contact the pacemaker clinic on 529 2700 for further advice.

Pacemaker Identity Card

You will be given a pacemaker identity card on the day of your operation. This contains your name and address and all the details of your pacemaker.

It is very important that you carry this identity card at all times.

Pacemaker Clinic Appointments

You will be given an appointment for the pacemaker clinic. This will be for eight weeks after your pacemaker implantation.

The pacemaker clinic is situated in the Cardiology Department which is on the first floor above the Out patients Department.

You will then attend regularly.

On each occasion the pacemaker will be checked by a senior cardiology physiologist and any fine tuning to prolong the battery life will be carried out.

Lifting

Avoid lifting heavy objects with your affected arm for 10-14 days after the Pacemaker implantation.

Airports

You should not pass through the airport security systems and metal detectors. Inform the airport personnel that you have a pacemaker and show them your pacemaker identity card.

Dental and Surgical Treatment

It is important that you inform a doctor or dentist before undergoing any treatment.

Driving

You cannot drive for one week after your pacemaker has been implanted. You may resume driving after this as long as there is no other reason why you cannot drive.

You must inform the DVLA in Swansea and your insurance company that you have a pacemaker.

Electrical Equipment

It is safe to use all electrical equipment around the house. This includes vacuum cleaners, microwave ovens and electric drills.

The pacemaker may be affected by arc welders and other high voltage fields. (e.g. visiting nuclear power stations).

If you work in one of these areas you will need to let us know.

The pacemaker will not fail to work, but necessary adjustments may be needed.

Electronic Article Surveillance (Eas)

EAS system are the “gates” at the entrance to shops and libraries which alarm when items which have not been paid for /had the tax removed are taken through them.

These “gates” have the potential to affect your pacemaker but you should pass through shop doors quickly and stay as far away as possible.

Mobile Telephones

Pacemaker operation may be affected by a mobile phone when it is within 6 inches of the pacemaker site.

Please follow the following guidelines:

- hold the phone to the ear opposite the side of the pacemaker
- keep the phone at least 6 inches from the pacemaker
- do not carry the phone in the breast pocket. Store the phone on the opposite side to the pacemaker.

Radiation

High energy radiation may damage your pacemaker. If you ever need radiotherapy you must inform the doctor about your pacemaker so that it can be shielded

Signs to watch for

The most common worry that patient have is that there pacemaker will fail to work.

If your pacemaker is checked regularly this is unlikely to happen.

If you do experience any of the following symptoms

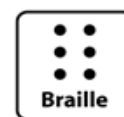
- Dizziness or fainting
- Twitching of the chest muscles or prolonged hiccupping
- Swelling, redness, tenderness, or discharge around the pacemaker site.

Telephone the pacemaker clinic on 529 2700 for further advise.

Please do not hesitate to phone the clinic if you have any other concerns or questions which cannot wait until your next clinic appointment.

Warfarin//Other blood thinning medication

You will be given advice on discharge time the dose of warfarin/other blood thinning medication.



If you require a special edition of this leaflet

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please contact:

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