



## Cardiology Department

# Discharge Advice for Patients following a Pacemaker Box Change

- Check your wound site daily for any signs of bleeding, swelling (swelling can mean that it is bleeding underneath the skin) or infection (redness, hot to touch, oozing). If you have symptoms, please contact the Cardiology day ward immediately on 01305 254990 and you will be asked to come in to have the wound checked.
- If it is outside of our hours (8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday) then go to the Emergency department.
- It is important that you limit the use of your arm on the same side as the pacemaker for one week. Do not use it to push, pull or carry heavy objects. This is to allow the stitches to pull together and allow the wound site the chance to heal.
- The clear, protective dressing should remain in place for 7 days. It is 'splash proof', therefore you can shower, but you should avoid standing in the full flow of water to prevent the dressing lifting up as this can risk infection. If it does start to peel up at the edges then please see your practice nurse at the GP surgery to have it renewed.
- Avoid having a bath or swimming until the stitch has been removed and the wound is healed and dry.
- If you have a removable stitch, this will need to be removed at the GP surgery 7 days after the procedure. You will need to arrange this appointment yourself. If you have concerns regarding your wound site, then please contact Cardiology day ward on 01305 254990.
- It is normal for the wound site to be bruised and uncomfortable initially. Please take 1-2 Paracetamol 500mg tablets every 4-6 hours and always follow the instructions on the packaging.
- You will be given a new pacemaker ID card, which you should carry with you at all times. You can destroy the old one.
- Please refrain from driving for one week after having your pacemaker box change. This is DVLA guidelines.

**For any further advice, please contact the Cardiology day ward on 01305 254990, Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.**

## Feedback

If you are happy with the service provided within this department, or if you feel we could improve this service, we would be grateful for your feedback. Please contact:

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## About this leaflet:

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If you have feedback regarding the accuracy of the information contained in this leaflet, or if you would like a list of references used to develop this leaflet, please email [pals@dchft.nhs.uk](mailto:pals@dchft.nhs.uk)



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