

## Patient information factsheet

# Your cardiac rhythm management device: battery change

We have given you this factsheet because you have had an operation to have your implanted cardiac device replaced. It explains what you need to know following your operation. We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a member of our team.

### What you need to know

The settings on your new implanted cardiac device will be very similar to your previous device. Some devices may have a few new features and/or an extended battery life. If this is the case, we will explain the differences to you in more detail before you go home.

**Please keep a careful eye on your wound site.** Leave the dressing on for five to seven days and keep it clean and dry. Once you have removed the dressing, keep the area clean and dry until your wound is well healed.

Look out for any signs of infection:

- redness
- soreness
- raised appearance
- discharge
- raised temperature
- sudden severe pain at your wound site

If you have any concerns about your wound site, please contact our team between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. At all other times, you should attend your nearest emergency department. If you're a resident of the Channel Islands, please contact the Princess Elizabeth Hospital. Details of your implant will be sent there.

Following your operation, you do **not** need to restrict your arm movements. This is a precaution that only needs to be followed for the first six weeks after an initial device implant or a lead replacement or alteration.

We will send you an appointment letter regarding your next appointment with our team in the post. This may be a face-to-face appointment in hospital or a remote appointment via your bedside monitor or mobile phone app.

### Home monitoring

- ☐ My monitor is automatic - keep it plugged in
- ☐ My monitor is an automatic smartphone or tablet-based app

A home monitor sends information through to our department, which we then review to check the function of your device. If you have been given a home monitor, we will send you a letter instructing you when to use it. Your monitor may be a smartphone or tablet-based app, which uses low-energy Bluetooth. The home monitor may mean you do not have to come into hospital for as many appointments.

The home monitor may occasionally light up. This is normal and may be because the monitor is doing an update. Please do not send a manual transmission if this occurs. If you are concerned about the function of your home monitor, please call the manufacturer's helpline number.

## Magnets

Please be aware that using any device containing a magnet within 15cm of your implanted device forces it to function in a different mode. It will go back to normal as soon as you move away from the magnet. Some newer mobile phones include magnets, so we advise you to use mobile phones with the opposite hand to where your device is implanted, and not to keep a mobile phone in a shirt pocket.

## Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact us.

Cardiac rhythm management team  
Green area  
E level, East Wing  
Southampton General Hospital  
Tremona Road  
Southampton  
SO16 6YD

Telephone: **023 8120 6404** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 5pm)

Email: **crm@uhs.nhs.uk**

Please note that we only routinely analyse remote transmission between 8am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. If you have any concerns regarding your device outside of these times, please contact the hospital switchboard on **023 8077 7222** and ask to speak to the cardiovascular and thoracic bleep holder.

## Further information

For additional information, please see our website **www.uhs.nhs.uk** and search for 'cardiac rhythm management'.

If you are a patient at one of our hospitals and need this document translated, or in another format such as easy read, large print, Braille or audio, please telephone **0800 484 0135** or email **[patientsupporthub@uhs.nhs.uk](mailto:patientsupporthub@uhs.nhs.uk)**

For help preparing for your visit, arranging an interpreter or accessing the hospital, please visit **[www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport](http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/additionalsupport)**