

ECG and Telemetry Patient Monitoring

How It Works

You will carry a small battery pack that connects to five stickers (electrodes) on your chest. These sense your heartbeat and send the ECG (electrocardiogram) by radio waves to the computer at the nurses' station (telemetry). Telemetry allows your doctors and nurses to watch your ECG for 24 hours a day. It alarms for abnormal heart beats, which are called "arrhythmias." The doctor will let you know when we can stop the ECG monitoring.

Symptoms to Report

You can help us by telling your nurse if you have:

- Chest pain
- Fast heart beats (palpitations)
- Dizziness or feel faint
- Shortness of breath

Activity Guidelines

During your ECG and telemetry study:

- You can move around in your room and in the hallway when your nurse tells you it is okay.
- Check with your nurse to see if you can leave the area. If you get too far away, we may lose the ECG signal.
- Do not take off the ECG. Your nurse will remove it if it can come off.
- Do not shower with the battery pack on. Check with your nurse to see if you can shower.
- Avoid talking on a cell phone while on telemetry. Cell phone signals can get in the way of the ECG signal.

Questions

Let your doctor or nurse know if you have questions.

Your health care team may have given you this information as part of your care. If so, please use it and call if you have any questions. If this information was not given to you as part of your care, please check with your doctor. This is not medical advice. This is not to be used for diagnosis or treatment of any medical condition. Because each person's health needs are different, you should talk with your doctor or others on your health care team when using this information. If you have an emergency, please call 911. Copyright © 12/2021 University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#5144