

Generator Replacement

Your cardiac device has a pulse generator which includes a battery. The battery life is limited. When the battery gets low, it needs to be changed. In most cases, patients go home the same day.

The Day Before Surgery

A nurse will call you the day before surgery (or the Friday before a Monday surgery). The nurse will review your instructions and tell you what time to arrive. If you do not hear from us by 4 pm, please call: **608-263-1530**.

If you feel sick or have a fever over 100°F the day before surgery, call the clinic.

The Day of Surgery

Before the procedure starts blood may be drawn for labs. You will have an IV placed in your hand or arm. If needed, a small area around the surgical sites will be shaved. Your skin will be cleaned with a special soap. You may receive antibiotics through your IV to help prevent infection.

You will receive medicine to make you comfortable. Your skin will be numbed around the incision site.

Sterile drapes will cover you from your neck to your feet so that only the surgical site is exposed.

The Procedure

An incision is made over the pulse generator “pocket”. The leads will be unscrewed. The pulse generator is then removed and a new one is connected to the leads. The new device is then put into the pocket and the incision is closed with dissolvable sutures or surgical glue. The whole process takes about 1-2 hours.

Going Home

You will likely go home the same day. We will review discharge instructions with you.

You cannot drive yourself home. You need to arrange for someone to drive you home. You can resume driving after 24 hours.

Restrictions

- Avoid dental work for 1 month.

Incision Care

It is important that you take care of your incision to prevent an infection.

- Keep the site clean and dry.
- **Do not** use any lotions or ointments on the incision.
- **Do not** scratch or rub the site.
- **Do not** soak in a bathtub, hot tub, or go into a pool, lake or river until your incision is completely healed.
- Leave the current bandage on for 72 hours.
- **Do not** shower for ____ days.
- Your incision may have clear glue or small pieces of adhesive tape called “steri-strips” under the bandage. If there are steri-strips in place, leave them until they fall off on their own. The nurse may also remove them at your follow-up visit.
- When you do shower, let the soap and water run down the incision and gently pat dry.

Infection

Look at the site daily for signs of infection.

- Redness
- Swelling
- Fever (101°F or higher)
- Drainage

- Tenderness
- Warm to touch

Pain

You may take a mild pain reliever such as acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Motrin®) for any pain. You may also apply an ice pack. Ibuprofen or other NSAID medicines increase your risk of bleeding. You may want to avoid them if you are taking a blood thinner.

Device ID Card

You will receive a temporary ID card and will receive your permanent card in about 2 months. **Carry your card with you all the time.** Tell your health and dental care providers that you have a permanent cardiac device.

Electrical Hazards

You will need to avoid certain types of electrical devices. For more information, call your device company.

Avoid

- Working under the hood of a running car
- Arc welding

Caution

- **Therapeutic radiation machines.**
- **Electrocautery:** Discuss with your physician if you will need electrocautery for a procedure in the operating room or the dentist's office.
- **Cell phones:** Keep cell phones at least 6 inches from your device. Place the phone on the ear opposite of your device or use a headset.
- **Theft detection devices:** These are often around the entrances of stores. Walk through them as you normally would. **Do not** linger near these.

- **Airport security:** Tell security staff you have a device. Show them your Medical Device ID card.
- **Magnets:** Magnetic snap closure (in jackets), magnetic name badges, and any equipment with a magnetic strip. Keep anything with a magnet 6-8 inches from your device.
- **MRI (magnetic resonance imaging).** Discuss with your physician before having an MRI.

Safe Devices

- Microwaves
- Hair dryers
- Electric blankets and heating pads
- Computers
- Radios, TVs, and stereos

Follow-up Visit

Location: _____

Date: _____ Time: _____

After your first visit, your device will be checked every 3-4 months either in clinic or with home remote checks.

When to Call

- If you feel lightheaded, pass out or if your symptoms return that you had before your device.
- If your heart rate drops below the programmed rate, call the Device Clinic. If you cannot get in touch with the clinic, call your local doctor.
- You have any signs of infection.
- If you have a defibrillator (ICD) and you:
 - Receive a shock from your device, are awake and back at your baseline state of health (call as soon as you can).
 - Receive more than one shock, lose consciousness, or are not at your baseline, you or someone close to you

should **call 911** and go to the nearest emergency room.

Who to Call

UW Heart and Vascular Clinic.

Monday – Friday, 8:00 am- 4:30 pm

608-263-1530 or **1-800-323-8942**

After hours, nights, weekend, and holidays this number will give you the paging operator. Ask for the cardiology fellow on call. Give your full name and phone number with the area code. The doctor will call you back.

For questions about your device, call the device company:

- Medtronic: 1-800-633-8766
- Boston Scientific: 1-800-227-3422
- St. Jude/Abbott: 1-800-722-3423
- Biotronik: 1-800-547-0394

If you are a patient receiving care at UnityPoint – Meriter, Swedish American or a health system outside of UW Health, please use the phone numbers provided in your discharge instructions for any questions or concerns.

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 © 4/2021 University of Wisconsin Hospitals and Clinics Authority. All rights reserved. Produced by the Department of Nursing. HF#7166.