

Patient Information

Care of the Wound site after a Permanent Pacemaker, Biventricular Pacemaker or ICD (Defibrillator) insertion.

- The dressing applied should remain in place for 48 hours and should be kept dry.
- After 48 hours you may gently remove the dressing. If the wound is dry, you may shower but you will need to run the water through the showerhead for 5 minutes before allowing the warm water to run lightly/gently over the wound.
- If you bath, the wound must not be submerged in water and must be kept dry for 7 to 10 days until the wound has healed. The wound should not be submerged in water for 7 to 10 days until the wound has healed.
- **Do not** use soap, creams, lotions on the area of the wound. Gently pat dry with a clean towel.
- Wound stitches are usually dissolvable and will disappear within 7 to 10 days. If your stitches are not dissolvable you will have to attend your GP Surgery after 7 days to have the stitches removed. You will be advised before leaving what stitches you have.
- Do not wear tight clothing as this could cause discomfort over the Pacemaker site due to rubbing.
- Should you notice redness, swelling, discharge or increased tenderness developing after you leave hospital you should seek advice by seeing your GP or contacting the Pacing Clinic.
- Should you develop a temperature or any episodes of dizziness or breathlessness you should seek advice by seeing your GP or contacting the Pacing Clinic.
- If the wound is not dry and there is some ooze/discharge, put a fresh dressing on (supplied on discharge) and attend your GP surgery for review.
- It is important to keep your shoulder mobile by gently moving the arm on the side of the pacemaker and should continue light exercise.

Any questions or worries?

Contact the Pacing Clinic on telephone 020 8725 1372 / 3597

Further information

You might find it useful to visit:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/PacemakerImplantation>

