



**University
Hospitals Sussex**
NHS Foundation Trust

Pacemaker and ICD follow-up appointments

Cardiology

Patient information

What is this information about?

This information is about the regular follow-up appointments you will have about your pacemaker or ICD. It tells you why you need these appointments, and what happens.

Why have I been given this information?

You have been given this information because you have a pacemaker or ICD and will have regular appointments with the cardiac physiologist to make sure it is working properly.

What is a Pacemaker or ICD (Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator)?

Pacemakers and ICDs are battery powered devices that regulate the heart's rhythm. They are implanted in your body.

Why do I need follow-up appointments if I have a pacemaker or ICD?

A follow-up appointment is a regular check of your implanted device to make sure it is working properly and managing your heart's rhythm in the right way.

These routine follow-ups are really important if you have a pacemaker or ICD. They help detect any problems early on and mean that they can get sorted out quickly. It also helps to make sure all settings are safe and are working in the best way for you.

Be aware

The DVLA require you to have routine ICD follow-ups in order to hold a valid driving licence.

What does the procedure involve?

A cardiac physiologist uses a specialised device called a programmer to communicate with the pacemaker or ICD.

Part of this programmer is placed over the chest where the device is implanted, and it communicates with the device. It can get information from the device and also adjust the device settings if needed.

You may also have ECG cables attached to your arms and legs to monitor your heart rate and rhythm during the follow-up. The process should not hurt.

During the follow-up, the Cardiac Physiologist makes sure your device is working properly, including the battery. They can also see any data stored on the device. This includes episodes of abnormal heart rhythms or device activity.

Do I need to make any preparations?

Usually there is no special preparation needed for a routine follow-up.

Do I need to tell the cardiac physiologist anything during my follow-up?

Yes. It is really important to tell the cardiac physiologist about any changes in your medical history, symptoms, or medicines since your last check. This information helps to make sure that the device settings are adjusted appropriately during the follow-up.

When will I receive the results?

Your cardiac physiologist will review the findings with you. You can talk to them about any concerns or questions that you may have.

A report of the findings will be available on your electronic record system and can be sent to your doctor if they ask for it.

Who can I contact for further information and advice?

For appointment queries 01273 696955 Ext. 64090

For clinical queries 01273 696955 Ext. 62504

Email uhsussex.pacemaker.clinic2@nhs.net

This leaflet is intended for patients receiving care in Brighton & Hove or Haywards Heath

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