

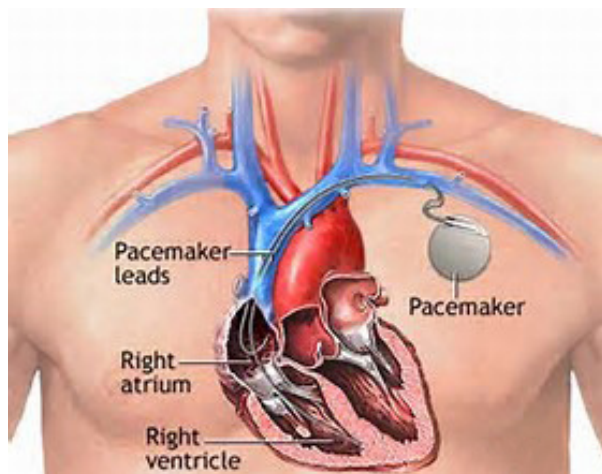
What is a Generator Replacement?

Your pacemaker or defibrillator generator is like any other battery and eventually needs to be replaced.

It usually lasts 5 to 10 years depending on how often it is used. The battery status of your device is usually checked every 6 months during routine follow up visits with your Cardiologist.

Having the generator replaced will ensure that your pacemaker or defibrillator continues to work correctly. The operation is usually performed under light sedation so you can go home the same day.

A small cut is made at the site of the generator using local anaesthetic. The generator is removed and replaced with a new device.



Canberra Hospital and Health Services

CONTACT US

For all enquiries please contact

Department of Cardiology

Ph: (02) 6244 2178

Monday to Friday

8.30am to 5.00pm

The Canberra Hospital

Yamba Drive

Garran ACT 2605

For after hours emergencies please contact your nearest Emergency Department

Content adapted from Western Health.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit:

www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 132281 | Publication No XXXXX

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra July 2017



REPLACEMENT OF A PERMANENT PACEMAKER OR DEFIBRILLATOR GENERATOR

Department
of Cardiology



This pamphlet is applicable to adult patients having a new Permanent Pacemaker

Pre-admission Clinic

We will assess you at the clinic to gather some information about you for your operation to be performed safely.

You are welcome to have someone with you at this clinic. If you require an interpreter, please contact The Cardiology Department on (02) 6244 2178 prior to your appointment.

Please bring a list of your medications to this appointment.

- You will be advised which medication to stop and when, prior to your operation.
- Your pacemaker or defibrillator may be checked.
- A Registered Nurse will discuss what to expect on your admission and give you advice for your aftercare.
- A doctor will examine you, explain the risks of the operation and ask you to sign a consent form.
- You will be advised when to stop eating and drinking before your procedure.

On the day of your operation

Bring all your medications in with you.

- Present to the Admissions Office at your appointed time.
- You must take your medications as instructed at the Pre-admission Clinic, please call the Cardiology Department on (02) 6244 2178 if you are not sure.
- Wear comfortable clothes as you will be discharged home on the same day.
- Please leave all valuables at home and remove any nail polish, and wear minimal makeup.
- You may wear your glasses, your dentures and minimal jewellery.

During the operation

- The operation is performed using local anaesthetic. Sedation may also be given either in oral or intravenous form to assist in relaxing you for the procedure
- A small cut will be made below the collarbone (on the left or right) which allows the doctor to access the generator and lead/s.
- The leads will be connected to the new generator. The new generator will be placed under the skin (see image reverse side).
- The small cut will be stitched with either a dissolvable or non dissolvable stitch. A waterproof dressing will be placed to the wound site.

After the operation

- You will be transferred to the Cardiac Catheter Lab Day Ward for recovery, where you will rest in bed until you are ready for discharge
- You will be discharged the same day.
- Before you are discharged your new pacemaker or defibrillator will be checked.
- You will need to organise someone to drive you home and be with you overnight. If this cannot be arranged please let us know during your pre admission clinic appointment.
- A follow up appointment will be made to check your new pacemaker or defibrillator.
- You may follow your normal diet.
- Normal arm movement for day to day activities is fine. If you have any concerns you should speak with your Cardiologist.

Wound Care

- You will need to see your GP 1 week following discharge so that the dressing can be removed, the wound checked and any stitches removed.
- You may shower however bathing and swimming should be avoided for the first 4 weeks.
- Bruising is common after your procedure and should disappear within 2 to 3 weeks.
- Pain to the wound is usually mild and should subside within a few days.
- It is important to watch out for signs of infection (which is rare but needs to be treated promptly). Signs of infection include fever, redness, severe pain, swelling and discharge from the wound. If you have any signs of infection, please report to your GP or cardiologist immediately.
- You will be discharged on antibiotics for 1 week.
- Regular pain relief is recommended for the first few days and you will be advised what to take by your Cardiologist.

Driving

- You will be advised when you can drive by your Cardiologist based on your medical condition.

Follow up

- Before you are discharged your initial pacemaker or defibrillator check will be made within 3 months of your operation. If you do not receive an appointment or are unsure please contact your responsible Cardiologist's office.
- We will provide you with an ID card with information about your new device