

My Planned Care Patient Information Platform

Cardiology – Pacemaker

Introduction

A pacemaker is a small electrical device which is inserted under the skin with electrical leads which follow the blood vessels to the right side of the heart. Its job is to ensure the heart rate does not drop low and keep the heart beating. The device has a battery in it which should last between 7-10 years.

We review patients who have been referred to the service. Your clinician will have told you whether you are to be done as an urgent referral or as a routine referral. Rest assured your care is important to us.

Guidance for Patients

You will have been seen by a clinician from the cardiology department or your care may have been discussed with the team. Your details will be put onto a waiting list and you will be contacted by either the administrator or a specialist nurse. They will arrange for you to come to the hospital for a pre-clerking appointment. This allows the team to gather information about you and your needs so we can safely look after you. In some instances this will include being seen by a consultant. If you have been seen in clinics recently we may be able to do some of this over the phone. You will be swabbed for MRSA (multiple resistant staphylococcus aureus). This is a normal hospital procedure. We will also need to ensure you have had recent bloods tests.

When you come to your pre-clerking appointment you may want to bring someone with you. You should also bring your current list of medications/inhalers/injections.

You will be given time to discuss the procedures and the risks and possible outcomes. You can change your mind at any time if you decide to not go ahead, but it is important you tell the administration team as we can then offer the appointment to another patient. Equally if you are unable to make the appointment let us know and we will make another appointment for you. The contact numbers you need are

What should I do if my health is deteriorating?

If you are finding you are becoming more dizzy it is important that you are assessed further. If you have a loss of consciousness or if you have had a fall but can't remember the details of how you have fallen you should ring 999 requesting an ambulance, stating that you have had a loss of consciousness and you are waiting for a pacemaker. If during your wait you feel very dizzy or become more short of breath it is important that you are further assessed, if you are alright you may want to ring 111. But if you become unwell then ring 999.

Whilst you wait for pacemaker insertion

It is important that you continue to look after yourself.

- Ensure you are taking all the medicines as prescribed.
- If you smoke, book into a smoking cessation service and plan to stop

If you are able too, do light exercise, but not to the point it makes you feel unwell with your symptoms.

Contact Us

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| Coronary angiography administration team | 02476 865400 |
| Device specialist nurse | 02476 153841 |
| Cardiology secretaries | 02476 865378 |
| | 02476 865141 |

Finding our more information about pacemakers

The British Heart Foundation website has some useful information. The following links will help.

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/treatments/pacemakers>