



Device Generator Change Discharge Instructions

What should I know if I go home the same day as my procedure?

You must have someone drive you home. Do not drive or drink alcohol for 24 hours after being sedated for the procedure. You need to have someone stay with you until the day after the procedure.

How do I care for my incision?

Remove the bandage the day after the generator is changed and do NOT apply a new bandage. You may shower 48 hours after the procedure. Wash the site with soap and water in the shower daily, then pat dry. Do not put any products or medicines on the incision. If there are small pieces of tape (steri-strips) or skin glue on the site, do not remove them; they will eventually fall off. Do not submerge the incision under water (pool, bathtub), nor use steam rooms for 1 month.

What are my activity restrictions?

No driving for 24 hours after the procedure. Very heavy lifting with the device-side arm, or lots of movement of that arm at the shoulder while the incision is healing could cause the incision to open or bleed. A good rule of thumb is to avoid movements that cause pain at the incision site.

When can I return to work?

You can return to work the day after the procedure.

When will I follow-up?

You need an appointment in the Device Clinic in 1-2 weeks.

What symptoms are expected after my generator change?

- Bruising is normal, even if it extends downward and/or toward the armpit.
- Mild-to-moderate incisional pain that improves over time and is controlled with Tylenol.
- Most people will feel the generator (battery) under the skin and will have some puffiness in that region that improves over time.

For what symptoms should I call South Denver Cardiology?

- Worsening redness, pain, heat, or puffiness/swelling at the incision site
- Oozing, bleeding, or pus from the incision
- Opening of the incision

For what symptoms should I call 911?

- Severe chest pain or pressure in your chest.
- Severe or new-onset shortness of breath, especially at rest
- Any fainting or blackout spells.
- Symptoms concerning for stroke: one-sided weakness, facial droop, sudden vision changes, speech changes, or changes in alertness

When can I travel and what about the airport metal detector?

We recommend you avoid travel until after you have had your first Device Clinic appointment 1-2 weeks after implant. There are no extra restrictions for traveling to higher elevation. If traveling by air, please let airport security know about your device because it will set the alarm off (it will not interfere with the pacemaker). You can go through the body scanner or security can use a wand to check you.

When can I have other procedures, dental cleanings, or surgeries?

No restrictions.

Can I get my COVID Vaccine/Booster?

Yes! Please don't delay getting ANY vaccines because you had a pacemaker implanted.

What happens if I need an MRI?

If the Device Clinic tells you your device is safe for MRI, you can have an MRI in a hospital facility. The MRI staff will contact the Device Clinic to coordinate it.

What do I do if I'm having trouble with my home monitor?

The Device Clinic can be reached at 303-703-2139. A list of resources for technical support can be found on our website at <https://southdenver.com/device-clinic-get-a-tune-up/>