

Wound care information following device box change

Cardiac Intervention Unit Patient information

This leaflet provides information and advice for patients and their families following device box change.

As part of the procedure you have a small incision wound. It has been closed with dissolvable stitches and will take a few days to heal completely. It is important that the wound is kept clean and dry for five days. Depending on which doctor did your procedure, the skin may have been sealed with:

A Dissolvable stitch

This will be covered with a dressing which needs to remain in place for three days. Please leave this dressing in place until this time.

Glue

The glue will generally peel off naturally in five to ten days, however, it does sometimes take longer. Do not pick at the film or scrub the area. A dressing should not be applied over the top of the glue.

Please read the following carefully:

The wound site will feel sore for a few days after the procedure, regular over the counter painkillers, such as paracetamol or co-codamol, should minimise any discomfort that you are feeling. It is normal to have some bruising around the area, particularly if you are on blood thinning medication.

DO NOT soak the cut. You may bathe and shower with care.

Keep the wound dry for the first five days. Prolonged exposure to steam may loosen the dressing, if one is in place. After the cut has healed you may bathe as normal, using your usual soap or shower gel. Remove the dressing (if you have one) as advised by nursing staff after you have been discharged home.

DO NOT put direct pressure on the cut, by lying face down for example, when it is still sore. It may feel sore to wear a seatbelt over the site of the pacemaker so wear the seat belt on the opposite side of your body. Having a pacemaker does not make you exempt from wearing a seat belt.

DO NOT use ointments or creams over or around the cut.

PLEASE Inform the arrhythmia nurses if you have a temperature or fever or if you notice any of the following around the pacemaker site:

- skin ulceration
- soreness
- increasing swelling and/or warmth
- redness - new oozing or bleeding from the pacemaker site

If you have any further questions please contact the **arrhythmia nurses** on **0300 019 6154** (Monday to Friday 9am-6pm)

Email: **uhd.arrhythmia.nurses@nhs.net**

Outside these hours please contact **Coronary Care Unit** on **0300 019 4146**

Day 3 - Date: _____ remove dressing.

Do not clean or touch the site and apply a clean dressing. Contact the ANS with any concerns.

Day 5 - Date: _____ remove dressing.

You can now get the site wet but do not wash it yet.

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please visit our website: **www.uhd.nhs.uk/visit/patient-information-leaflets**
and use the language and accessibility function available along the top of the site.

To ask for this leaflet in larger print, please contact the patient experience team on **0300 019 8499**
or email **uhd.patientexperienceteam@nhs.net**.

The Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Castle Lane East, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH7 7DW

Author: **Sharon Cassidy** Date: **April 2026** Version: **Five** Review date: **April 2025** Ref: **477/21**

t: 01202 303626 w: www.uhd.nhs.uk  @UHTrust  @uhd_nhs

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