

Why do I need a Generator Change?

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

The generator life is usually 5 to 10 years. How long it lasts depends on how often it is used. The battery status of your device is checked during routine follow up visits at the Pacemaker Clinic or with your cardiologist. With follow-up, you will have several months to schedule the generator change.

Having the generator changed will ensure your device to continue to work correctly. The procedure is usually performed with light sedation so you can go home the same day.

A small incision is made at the site of the Generator with local anaesthetic. The generator is removed and replaced with a new one. The incision is sewn up and dressed and cared for as you would have your original wound

Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory Western Hospital Gordon Street Footscary, VIC 3011

Day Procedure Unit
(enter through Admissions)
1st Floor, North Block
Opening hours: 7am-8pm

Coronary Care Unit
2nd Floor, North Block
Visiting hours: 10am-2pm & 4pm-8pm

CONTACT US

For all enquiries, please contact our Booking

Clerk on 83456056

WESTERN HEALTH

Sunshine Hospital
176 Furlong Rd, St Albans VIC 3021
Phone: (03) 8345 1333
Fax: (03) 8345 1019
<http://www.wh.org.au>

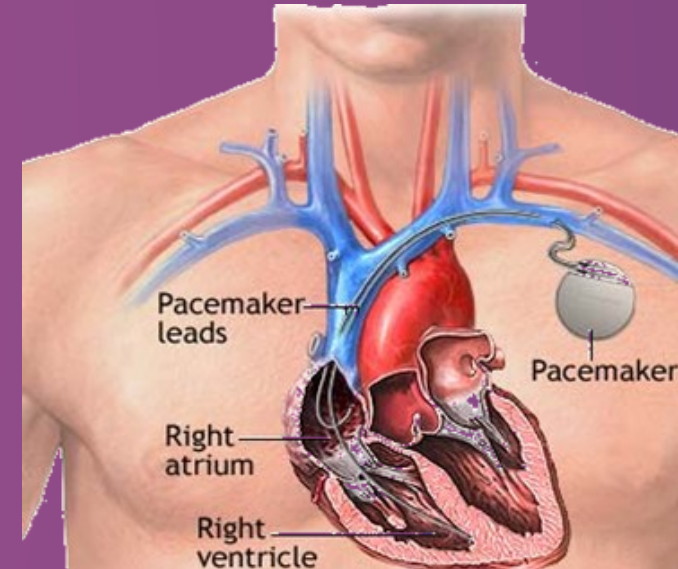
This information leaflet contains important information to help you recover safely at home. This information is intended to support not replace a discussion with your doctor or health care professionals. Western Health accepts no liability for any information that may be perceived as misleading and directs you to your health professional.



Western Health

Together, caring for the west

Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory



Pacemaker Generator Change Patient Information



Western Health

Pre-admission Clinic

A thorough assessment will be done at the clinic to gather some baseline information about you for your procedure to be performed safely.

You are welcome to have someone with you at this clinic, especially if English is your second language.

PLEASE BRING YOUR MEDICATIONS TO YOUR PRE-ADMISSION CLINIC APPOINTMENT

- An ECG and blood test will be taken
- A nurse will check your weight, blood pressure and tell you about the procedure
- A doctor will examine you, explain the procedure and the risks, and complete your consent form

On the Day

Bring all your medications in with you

- You must take your medications as instructed at the Pre-admission Clinic (please call our nurse on 8345-7498 if you are not sure)
- Wear comfortable clothes as you will be discharged home on the same day from the Day Procedure Unit
- Please leave all valuables at home and remove any nail polish
- Present to Admissions on the 1st floor, North Block, at your appointed time
- You may wear your dentures and/or minimal jewellery

During the procedure

The procedure is performed using local anaesthetic at the site. Sedation may also be given to alleviate any anxiety you may experience.

A small cut is made, usually above or below the original incision. The original leads that extend into the heart are disconnected from the old generator, which is positioned underneath your skin. A new generator is placed and connected to the leads. The wound is closed using dissolvable stitches.

After the procedure

You will be transferred to the Day Procedure Unit where your blood pressure, heart rate and wound site will be monitored.

You will be discharged later on the same day with follow up at the Pacemaker clinic.

You will be given a prescription for antibiotics to be taken after discharged from hospital.

For two weeks after the procedure you should avoid lifting the arm of the affected side above you head. This is to minimise stress on the healing wound. Normal arm movement for day to day activities is fine.

Most household activities can be resumed after 2 weeks; heavy lifting and vigorous activities should wait at least 4 weeks. If you have any concerns you should speak with your physician.

Wound Care

Dissolving stitches are used and a dressing will be placed over the wound. This dressing may be removed after 7 days. You may shower however bathing and swimming should be avoided for the first 7 days.

Bruising is common after implantation 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 observe for infection (which is rare but needs to be treated promptly). Signs of infection include redness, severe pain, swelling and sometimes discharge from the wound. You may also have a fever. If you have any signs of infection, please report to your GP or cardiologist immediately.