

Precautions for Device Patients

Implantable Loop Recorders:

These devices do not pace the heart or affect heart function. They only record information. The worst that can happen with any type of interference is that the device will record signals that do not originate from the heart. There are no restrictions for loop recorder patients imposed by the loop recorder. MRI scans are safe in loop recorder patients. No special precautions need be taken before a MRI scan, but the loop recorder will record the signals produced by an MRI so you should notify your physician and device clinic personnel if you have a MRI scan.

- **Magnetic theft detection scanners:** Will typically not effect loop recorders
- **Airports:** The scanners at airports will detect implantable loop recorders but generally will not affect them, nor cause them to record.

Pacemakers:

For most pacemaker patients there are only three things that are prohibited.

- **Arc welding.** Although not generally recommended, patients can do arc welding if the output of the welding equipment is less than _____.
- **Shooting rifles or shot guns with the butt of the gun on top of the device when firing.** The butt can be placed next to the device, or you can shoot using the opposite shoulder.
- **MRI scans.** MRI scans can be done in patients with the newer MRI compatible pacemakers, but still require special precautions and device reprogramming. If you are going to have an MRI it is best to notify the device clinic for advice.

Items that typically do not effect pacemakers include:

- **Cell phones** rarely affect pacemakers. The potential for an interaction occurs during dialing, not talking. The cell phone should be used in a normal way and not placed close to your pacemaker when dialing.
- **Microwave ovens** do not affect pacemakers unless the pacemaker is in the oven or the cover is off for servicing.
- **Most appliances and remote control units** do not affect pacemakers.
- **Magnetic theft detection scanners** will usually not effect pacemakers if you simply walk through. It is possible to create an interaction if you move rapidly back and forth through the detector and this is not advisable.
- **The scanners at airports** will detect pacemakers but generally will not affect them in a permanent way. It is generally advised not to place a metal detecting wand directly over the pacemaker.
- **Magnetic fields** may cause temporary disruption of pacemaker function by forcing them temporarily in to a noise reversion mode. This should cause no serious harm. It is best to inform security personnel that you have a pacemaker, and show them your device ID card.

ICDs

For most ICD patients, there only three things that are prohibited:

- **Arc welding.** All though not generally recommended patients can do arc welding if the output of the welding equipment is less than _____.
- **Shooting rifles or shot guns with the butt of the gun on top of the device when firing.** The butt can be placed next to the device, or you can shoot using the opposite shoulder.
- **MRI scans.** ICDs that allow patients to undergo MRI scans are in development. It is generally stated that patients with ICDs cannot have MRI scans, but it can be done in some cases. If you are advised to have an MRI it is best to notify the device clinic for advice.

Items that typically do not effect ICDs include:

- **Cell phones** rarely affect ICDs. The potential for an interaction occurs during dialing, not talking. The cell phone should be used in a normal way and not placed close to your ICD when dialing.
- **Microwave ovens** do not affect ICDs during normal use.
- **Most appliances and remote control units** do not affect ICDs.
- **Magnetic theft detection scanners** will usually not effect ICDs if you simply walk through. It is possible to create an interaction if you move rapidly back and forth through the detector and this is not advisable.
- **The scanners at airports** will detect ICDs but generally will not affect them in a permanent way. Magnetic fields may cause temporary disruption of pacemaker function by forcing them temporarily in to a noise reversion mode. This should cause no serious harm. It is best to inform security personnel that you have an ICD, and show them your device ID card.
- **Driving may be restricted in some ICD patients.** This is related to the risk of fainting, and not simply because an ICD has been implanted. Patients who had cardiac arrest, or fainting due to an arrhythmia, as the reason an ICD was implanted, are usually advised not to drive for six months.