

Reminders About Your Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)

Information About Your ICD

Manufacturer (maker): _____

Model number: _____

Serial number: _____

Date of implant: _____

If your heart rate is more than _____, the ICD will deliver a shock.

If your heart rate is between _____ and _____, the ICD will first attempt to pace your heart to stop this abnormal rhythm. If pacing fails to stop the fast rhythm, shocks may occur.

If your heart rate slows below _____ beats per minute, the pacemaker will pace your heart at a rate of _____.

Important Reminders

- Read your ICD patient manual. If you have trouble understanding any of the information, please ask your doctor.
- Carry your ICD identification card in your wallet at all times. This card is helpful if you need any medical procedures done or if you need to stay in the hospital.
- You may want to apply for a medical identification bracelet or necklace. You can get a Medic Alert® application form at the Pacemaker/ICD Clinic. You can also buy a bracelet or necklace at your local pharmacy.

ICD Shocks

You have an ICD because you are at risk for ventricular tachycardia, ventricular fibrillation or sudden death. You may develop an abnormal heart rhythm and need shocks or pacing at any time.

Before you receive a shock, you may have no warning signs or you may have symptoms such as:

- dizziness
- lightheadedness
- fast heartbeats
- chest discomfort
- feeling faint.

Whom to call and when

- If you receive a shock and feel OK, call the ICD clinic, your doctor, or both. You do not need to make this call right away. You can wait until normal business hours (8 a.m. to 5 p.m.).
- If you receive a shock and do not feel OK, call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room.
- If you receive more than 1 shock within several days, make an appointment to see your doctor, the ICD clinic, or both.
- Call your doctor, cardiologist and ICD clinic if you have any symptoms of an abnormal heart rhythm (such as fainting, dizziness, weakness, rapid pulse).

(over)

Driving

If you ever lost consciousness before receiving your ICD, driving is not recommended for several months. This is because of the possible danger to you and others. Talk with your doctor about your situation and what they advise.

Precautions

- Strong electrical and magnetic fields can interfere with your ICD.

- You can safely use all common household appliances and tools (including the microwave) that are properly grounded and in good working condition.

- To avoid any interference, stay an arm's length away from:

- large magnets
- stereo speakers
- airport security wands
- arc welders
- chain saws
- industrial equipment
- induction furnaces
- large generators and power plants
- CB or Ham radio antennas.

Some cell phones may interfere with the ICD if they are within 6 inches of the ICD.

- Before entering airport security, show your ICD identification card. Do not let the screener place the security wand over your ICD.
- Some medical procedures (such as MRI) or surgery (such as electrocautery) may interfere with the ICD. Tell your doctors, chiropractors, physical therapists and dentists that you have an ICD.

Questions

- Call the Allina Health Minneapolis Heart Institute — Minneapolis at 612-775-3000 or 1-800-582-5175 if you have any questions or concerns.
- Call 612-863-3900 if you need to call after hours.