

Implantable Device Patient Information

New Pacemakers, Pacemaker Box Change,
Implantable Cardioverter Device (ICD)



CardiacCare

dudleyprivate.com.au



**Dudley
Private Hospital**

Part of Ramsay Health Care

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Please note:

The advice in the document is general in nature and all questions must be directed to your Cardiologist or Cardiac Care Team.



Planning For Your Admission

Here is a list of simple steps to prepare you for your procedure at Dudley Private Hospital:

- Speak to your Doctor to find out how long you are required to stay in hospital – this should be a guide only and may be influenced by your recovery post-surgery
- Prepare your transport home from the hospital. Arrange your carer to pick you up at the time of discharge as you will require a responsible adult to care for you for a few days following your procedure. It is best to plan for this prior to your admission.
- You are required to shower using Chlorhexidine wash the morning of your procedure, this is an antiseptic wash and is required to help prevent infection. Chlorhexidine wash can be purchased from most Pharmacies.
- Seek guidance from your Cardiologist regarding any current medications as some medications must be ceased prior to your procedure.
- Pathology: Your Cardiologist will require you to have specific blood tests completed within a month leading up to your procedure. Your Cardiologist will provide you with the pathology request form.
- Contact your Cardiologist or Dudley Private Hospital should you have any health concerns in the lead up to your procedure.



Your Admission to Dudley Private Hospital

- You must complete your admission paperwork prior to your procedure. This can be done either via our online admission portal or via hardcopy paperwork (provided by your Cardiologist). Please call the hospital reception on 02 6362 8122 for any assistance with this.
- You will receive a phone call from the hospital Pre-Admission Nurse two working days prior to your admission to confirm you have completed your required pathology, provide you with your fasting details and ensure you have ceased appropriate medications. This is a great opportunity to ask any questions you may have regarding your upcoming procedure.
- Fasting – Your procedure will be completed under General Anaesthetic. It is crucial to your safety that you follow your fasting instructions prior to your procedure.
- On the day of your procedure you will be admitted through Dudley admissions. You will see a number of nurses who will undertake routine tests and observations such as an ECG, blood pressure, heart rate etc. Your allergies will be checked and all of your paperwork will be confirmed (multiple times). An IV cannula may be inserted during this process.
- You will change into a hospital gown. The nursing staff will shave any hair from your upper chest if required.
- The Cardiologist will meet with you and discuss the procedure and you will be required to sign a consent form once you have a full understanding of your procedure.
- You will meet with your Anaesthetist- this is another opportunity to ask questions relating to your procedure.
- Once all your admission tasks are completed, you will wait in the waiting room to be called into the theatre by nursing staff.





Overnight stay in Hospital vs Day Surgery

All new insertions of Pacemakers or Defibrillators will require an overnight admission. You will be monitored in a Cardiac bed with a continuous heart rate monitor and will be reviewed by your admitting Cardiologist the following day.

Generally, box (battery) changes require a day admission only, unless otherwise instructed by your Cardiologist and care team.

It is important to speak to your Cardiologist prior to your admission if you foresee any issues upon discharge, ie – no one to care for you at home immediately following discharge.

What to bring to Hospital

- Pacemaker/Defibrillator information – (Product information)
- All relevant medical documentation
- All current medications, in original packaging. **Please do NOT bring a Webster pack** as our staff are unable to dispense from these. If you use Webster packs, please contact your pharmacy to request original packaging for the purpose of hospital admission
- Personal items – toiletries, pyjamas (preferably with a button up top)
- Comfortable clothes for discharge

What to expect during your hospital stay

- Pacemaker and Defibrillator Battery Box Changes – Day Procedures
 - Generally if you are scheduled for a Pacemaker or Defibrillator Battery Box change, you will not require an overnight admission to hospital.
 - Following your procedure, you will be transferred to Recovery and will be cared for until you are awake and comfortable. You will be discharged into the care of a responsible adult approximately 2-3 hours following your procedure. Prior to discharge:
 - ▶ Your Cardiologist will review you – please ask as many questions as you need to ensure you are comfortable and prepared for discharge.
 - ▶ You will be given instructions as to how to care for your wound site
 - ▶ You will be given instruction on your medications
 - ▶ You will be provided with all relevant discharge paperwork and instructions for a post-op review appointment if required
 - ▶ You will be provided with a home monitor which links to your device. The device brand representative will inform you of the instructions for use.
- New Pacemaker or Defibrillator – Overnight Procedures
 - Following your procedure, you will be transferred to Recovery where you will be connected to cardiac monitoring and and ECG will be performed. You will be cared for by nurses in Recovery until you are awake and comfortable.
 - Once it is safe to do so, you will be transferred to your room on the ward. A portable cardiac monitoring system will be applied or you will be connected to a monitor beside your bed. This will remain in place overnight, until you are reviewed by your Cardiologist the morning after your procedure.
 - You are to remain on bed rest for 24hours following your procedure in order to allow for your recovery and the wound site to heal. The only time you should be leaving your bed is to access the bathroom within your room and this should be done with nursing assistance.
 - A chest X-Ray will be performed prior to your discharge to ensure correct positioning of the leads of your device.
 - A device check will be attended the morning after your procedure to ensure it is functioning correctly prior to discharge.
 - You will be provided with a home monitor which links to your device. The device brand representative will inform you of the instructions for use.
 - You will be referred to a device clinic for follow up checks.



Discharge from Hospital

- You will have a dressing applied to your wound site which should remain in place until checked by your Cardiologist.
- You will be provided with a home monitoring system to take home with you. The device representative/Cardiac Care team will provide thorough education as to how to use the device. This monitoring system is provided by the device company, any questions relating to its use should be directed to either your Cardiologist or the device representative directly.
- So long as your hospital stay is without complications, you will be discharged the morning after your procedure. Prior to your discharge:
 - Your Cardiologist will visit you to ensure no complications and it is safe to return home
 - You will receive a discharge summary detailing your procedure and care during your hospital stay. This report will also be sent directly to your GP.
 - You will be advised of follow up appointment instructions in your discharge summary
 - You will be informed as to how and when you are required to attend the Pacemaker or Defibrillator Clinic at Orange Health Service to have your device checked. This is usually four weeks post insertion.
 - You will be provided with information and encourage to attend the Cardiac Rehab program at Dudley Private Hospital.
- You will receive a phone call from our Cardiac nurses two days following your procedure

Pain Management and Medications

Pain

You will be provided with medication to manage your pain. Please let your nurse know if you are experiencing any pain as your medication can be adjusted to help manage this.

Current Medications

Please bring any current medications you require into hospital with you. They must be in original packaging (not webster packs).

Antibiotics

You will require antibiotics following your procedure to assist in reducing infection to the operation site.

Limitations Post Procedure

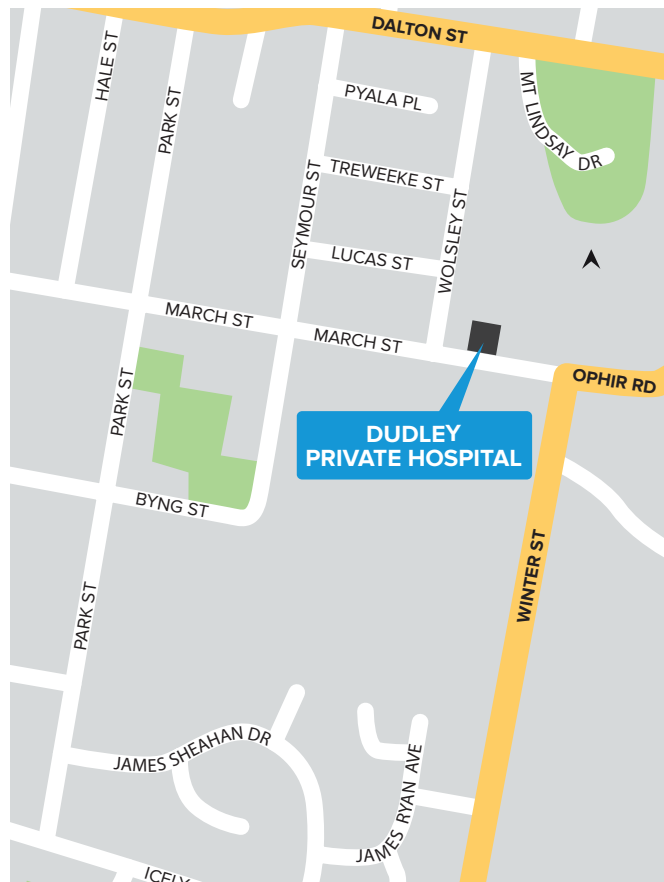
- Your wound dressing is a waterproof dressing which is required to remain in place until directed by your Cardiologist/Cardiac Care team. Whilst the dressing is technically waterproof, it is advised that you not immerse in water (swim or bathe) to ensure longevity of the dressing.
- It is very important to know and look for any signs of infection. Signs of infection include redness, swelling, ooze, heat to the sight and fever. If you have any concerns please contact Dudley Private Hospital on 02 6362 8122 or your GP or Cardiologist to request an urgent appointment to have your concerns reviewed.
- Exercise and movement –
 - It is recommended you do not lift anything greater than 2kg for six weeks following your procedure.
 - Do not lift your arm on your operative side above your head for six weeks following your procedure.
 - You may require assistance with tasks such as washing your hair to ensure you are not lifting your arm.
- Avoid all magnetic and welding equipment.
- You will be provided with an ID card for your Pacemaker. It is important to carry this at all times.
- Your Pacemaker may be detected by airport screening devices, this will not cause any damage to the device but you may be required to show your Pacemaker ID.

Transport Home

You must have a responsible adult to drive you home from hospital and to care for you for a few days following your procedure. Please seek guidance from your Cardiologist as to when you be cleared to drive again.

We wish you all the best with your recovery.





Dudley Private Hospital staff are committed
to providing compassionate, professional &
high standard health care



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People caring for people.