

**HACKETTSTOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER  
CARDIO PULMONARY POLICY MANUAL  
FOLLOW-UP CARE OF PACEMAKER**

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**Effective Date: May 2007**

**Cross Referenced:**

**Reviewed Date: 02/16**

**Revised Date: 02/16**

**Policy No: 5.003**

**Origin: Cardio Pulmonary**

**Authority: Cardio/Pulmonary Manager**

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Purpose: To assure pacemaker reassessment and evaluation based on patient needs, governed by Medicare Guidelines for scheduling.

Procedure:

Reassessment

Significant testing/reprogramming changes are done at the physician's discretion as to when to reassess the pacemaker. Usually the patient will be reassessed in the pacemaker clinic after 91 days, depending on the changes made in the reprogramming.

A change in the patient's condition, heart rhythm, or diagnosis may indicate a need to reassess the pacemaker.

A physician's order is needed for an unscheduled interrogation. If the patient had a recent evaluation, the nurse/technician will alert the physician. The physician will either reconfirm or decline the interrogation order.

Entries are made into the Critical Value Log of any identified problem, symptom or any issue that needs immediate attention.

Documentation

Any interrogation of the pacemaker or contact with the patient will be documented by the nurse in Cerner Millennium Power Chart in a progress note.

Inpatient:

This phase begins pre-operatively and is primarily an education phase. The patient educator, nurse educator will educate the patient/family/or significant others. The members being educated will be informed of the events leading up to surgery and immediately post-operative. A book entitled, You Have A Pacemaker will be given and the reason for the implant will be discussed along with what to expect during surgery. Any questions will be answered at this time.

Handout also given: Living With Your Pacemaker.

Out-Patient:

This phase begins post-operatively and is continued throughout the life of the pacemaker for each patient.

- The implant information of the specific pacemaker manufacturer is recorded in the pacemaker clinic, a chart is made for the patient and information is entered into the Optima System.
- The patient and/or family is visited post-up and follow-up care is discussed re:
  1. Care of incision
  2. Signs and symptoms of infection
  3. Precautions with having a pacemaker
  4. Exercise after implantation
  5. Follow-up clinic schedules
    - Re: Medicare Guidelines
  6. Transtelephonic evaluations, including use of transmission box
  7. Clinic evaluations

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