

# **Information for patients and carers**

## **Wound care advice following insertion of a cardiac device**

This leaflet has been written to provide you with advice following insertion of a cardiac device. We hope it answers some of the questions or concerns you may have. It is not intended to replace talking with the medical pacing team or nursing staff.

## **Wound closure using glue**

Leave the wound uncovered for 20 minutes post application.

The glued wound will have the appearance of a bloodied scab, this is normal and will come away when the wound is fully healed, which may take up to 5 weeks.

It is very important that you do not touch the wound whilst it is healing.

Sutures have been used underneath the skin and then glue applied to the surface. Occasionally these sutures can protrude through the wound. If you see a suture coming through the wound, please contact your own GP.

## **Wound closure using sutures**

If there is a dressing on your wound you should remove it the next day and leave the wound exposed, providing that it is clean and dry.

## **Looking after your wound**

Before caring for your wound always ensure that you have washed your hands.

You may have a bath or shower although you should avoid using soap or a flannel, which may harbour infection. Gently pat the area dry using a clean towel. Do not submerge the wound in the bath or go swimming until you have been to the pacemaker clinic and they have advised you that the wound is fully healed.

Do not apply any creams, moisturisers, liquids or dressings to the area until the wound has fully healed as this could cause infection. It is common to experience bruising, tenderness and slight discomfort on movement. If, however, you feel any discomfort from the pacemaker site you may find that taking simple painkillers such as paracetamol regularly will help. You must follow the manufacturer's instructions on the box. You should check the wound regularly for signs of infection, which may include:

- Redness around the wound area
- Heat or swelling around the wound
- Excessive tenderness
- Discharge or irritation from the wound
- Opening of the wound

If you experience any of these symptoms, please contact your own GP practice or the Cardiac Catheter Suite.

## **Further advice**

If you experience any shortness of breath or chest pain, please seek advice from:

- Cardiac Catheter Suite within opening hours
- Telephone 111 or 999
- Attend the Accident and Emergency Department

## **Contact details**

Should you require further advice or information please contact the Cardiac Catheter Suite on **01772 524382** Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm.

## **Sources of further information**

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk)

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

[www.accessable.co.uk](http://www.accessable.co.uk)

[www.patient.co.uk](http://www.patient.co.uk)

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware)

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

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All our patient information leaflets are available on our website for patients to access and download:

[www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets](http://www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/patient-information-leaflets)

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**Please ask a member of staff if you would like help in understanding this information.**

**This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.**

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:

[patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk](mailto:patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk)

**Department:** Cardiac Catheter Suite

**Division:** Medicine

**Production date:** February 2026

**Review date:** February 2029

**JR 1431 v1**