

What is a pacemaker?

A pacemaker is a small device that is put into your child's chest. It helps control your child's heartbeat. It has 2 main parts:

- A small metal container that holds the battery and computer. This is put under your child's skin.
- Wires that connect the battery and computer to your child's heart.

What is an implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD)?

An ICD is a small device that is put into your child's chest. It monitors your child's heart rhythm. The ICD should pace or shock your child's heart into a normal rhythm if their rhythm becomes dangerous. The ICD has 2 main parts:

- A small metal container that holds the battery and computer. This is put under your child's skin.
- A small wire, or lead, that shocks the heart. This is either placed:
 - Under the skin of your child's chest.
 - Or into your child's heart.

What is a loop recorder?

A loop recorder is a small device that only records and keeps data on your child's heart rate and rhythm.

- It can be set to record when the heart rate is too fast, is too slow or pauses.
- You and your child can also record the heart rhythm whenever you want. You can do this when your child is having symptoms.
- The data is kept in the device. It is sent from your home to your child's doctor each month. You will get home equipment after your child gets their cardiac device.

What happens when the device is placed?

Talk with your child's doctor about the device placement.

- It will happen in the Cardiac Cath Lab.
- Your child will get medicine to make them sleep during the procedure. They will not feel pain.

What else do I need to know?

Talk with your child's doctor about:

- When your child can do all activities and go to school. Your child may need to wear an arm sling.
- Any special rules for activities like:
 - Sports
 - Swimming
 - Work
 - Lifting

In case of an urgent concern or emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency department right away.

Cardiac (heart) device, continued

What follow-up does my child need?

Talk with your child's doctor about follow-up care.

- Your child will still need to see their main cardiologist (heart doctor).
- Your child may need to have visits at the Device Clinic. The address is:
1405 Clifton Rd NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30322
- You will send data from your child's device to their doctor. This is called a remote transmission. Most often, you will do this every 3 months.

What is a remote transmission?

A remote transmission sends data from your child's device to the Device Clinic team.

- It only sends data found in the device.
- The data is sent to a computer. Your child's care team will check the:
 - Battery
 - Lead
 - Changes in heart beats
 - When the device is used

There is a cost for the remote transmissions. Each insurance company is different. Call your insurance company to find out your cost.

It is important to send remote transmissions **and** keep your child's scheduled clinic visits. The Device Clinic team will not make changes to your child's device until they talk with you and your child.

How do I contact my child's care team?

- Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Cardiology phone number: 404-256-2593
- Device Clinic phone number: 404-785-6476
- Medtronic and Carelink patient services phone number: 1-866-470-7709

This teaching sheet contains general information only. Talk with your child's doctor or a member of your child's healthcare team about specific care of your child.

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