

The Prince Charles Hospital
Metro North Hospital and Health Service

Electrophysiology (EP) Laboratory



Discharge information for Loop Recorder

The Prince Charles Hospital
Rode Road
Chermside, QLD, 4032
Ph: (07) 3139 4000





Dressing

Leave the dressing on for seven days.

See your local doctor for removal of the dressing and to check the wound has fully healed.

Infection

Infection is a serious complication that can occur following loop recorder insertion. Report the following signs and symptoms to your local doctor or hospital, immediately:

- redness and swelling at the loop recorder site
- loop recorder site hot to touch
- fever
- wound ooze (which may be smelly)
- wound not healing
- bleeding

Your doctor should contact The Prince Charles Hospital and ask to speak with the Cardiology Registrar for further advice.

Contact Number: (07) 3139 4111.

Alternatively, the EP & Pacing Coordinator can be contacted Monday - Friday from 8 am - 4.30 pm on (07) 3139 5243.

How to use the activator

- Only use the activator if you have symptoms.
- Instruct relatives on how to use the activator if you suffer from blackouts or fainting.
- Keep the activator with you at all times.

To record your ECG during or after symptoms

- Place the activator over the loop recorder (on your skin or over clothing).
- Press the activator (white) button once.
- Remove activator and observe for a flashing light.
- A flashing green light above the tick means your loop recorder is recording and storing your ECG.
- A flashing yellow light (opposite to the green light) means that the loop recorder has not received a signal from your activator. Put the activator over the loop recorder and press the white button again and check for the green light.
- Repeat this until you see a green light.

After you have activated your loop recorder during or after symptoms

- Ring the Pacemaker Clinic on (07) 3139 4861 or 3139 4046 to arrange a date and time for the loop recorder to be interrogated.

Mobile phones

Cordless and mobile phones may interfere with the loop recorder. To minimise this:

- Maintain a minimum distance of 30cm between the phone and the loop recorder site.
- Hold the phone to the ear on the opposite side of the implant site.
- Do not carry the phone in a pocket on the same side as the implant.

Electronic Article Surveillance units (EAS)

- It is safe to go through EAS at airports, shopping centres and libraries. Walk straight through and do not linger between the beams.

Identification cards

- Carry your identification card with you at all times. It displays information about you, your device, and your doctor's name in case you are involved in a medical emergency. You may be required to show it at airports or in department stores.

Electrical equipment

- Your household electrical equipment is safe to use.
- Precautions need to be taken when using home handyman equipment.
- You must not weld or perform car engine maintenance.

Driving and operating heavy machinery

The Australian Transport Department and Queensland Transport have restrictions for individuals who have implanted devices. Ask your doctor for information about driving or riding a vehicle.

"If you continue to drive despite your doctor's advice and you do not report your condition to the Driver Licensing Authority, you are not fulfilling your legal responsibility. If you are involved in a crash under these circumstances and it is found that your health condition was a contributing factor, you may be prosecuted and your insurance may not be valid."

(www.austroads.com.au/aftd/downloads/fitness2dfactsheet1.pdf/2006)

continued overleaf





Informing other medical/allied health staff

Be sure to inform all members of your health care team, such as doctors, dentists, physiotherapists, etc. that you have a loop recorder implanted.

Returning to normal activities

It is important to return to a normal life as soon as possible.

You may feel tired and washed out for a few days after the procedure. This is a normal feeling and is usually attributed to the procedure itself and the medication used.

Note that your loop recorder has been implanted for a specific medical condition. It will not prevent you having other medical problems.

If you have any concerns or questions about your loop recorder, please contact the EP & Pacing Coordinator on (07) 3139 5243 during office hours, Monday to Friday 8 am - 4.30 pm.

 