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You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

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Implantable device wound care instructions

Your implanted device is extremely tough but the tissues surrounding it are quite fragile. The wound needs special care during the healing process. The wound can feel quite bruised and sore, especially for the first day or two but should get less painful over the days as it heals. Take regular pain killers if necessary.

- the wound will be closed with self-dissolving sutures which are completely buried under the skin. They do not need to be removed as they will gradually dissolve.
- please remove the pressure dressing after 24 hours.
- the wound dressing is not waterproof, please leave it on for 7 days after the implant. You will need to make an appointment with the practice nurse 7 days after the implant. At this appointment the practice nurse will remove the dressing and check the wound.
- while the dressing is in place you may wash carefully but do not get it wet. After 7 days you may shower, but dry the area by dabbing only - do not rub or scratch the incision or any scab.
- **do not raise your arm on the same side as the device implant above the shoulder height for the first 2 weeks.** This is because there is a small chance that the leads can move out of position.
- if you have paper steri-strips over your wound, allow them to come off naturally. Do not try to pull them off yourself.
- you should expect to have a bruise which can take a few weeks to disappear.

If you notice any of the following signs:

- new swelling
- redness
- oozing of blood or fluid from the wound
- extreme sensitivity
- unexplained fever
- the wound feels hot to touch

please contact the CIU on ☎ 01722 336262 ext 4258 during the week (Mon-Fri 9-5) or go to the Emergency Department out-of-hours (evenings and week-ends) for prompt assessment.

If you have any concerns or questions that are not covered in this guide, please contact the cardiac nurse specialists on ☎ 01722 429305.