

## DEVICE SUPPORT RESOURCES

If you require assistance with your device, you can call 91Life at 1-888-777-1014.

Or call the Help Desk for your specific monitor:

- Medtronic CareLink: 1-800-929-4043
- Boston Scientific Latitude: 1-866-484-3268
- Abbott/St. Jude Medical Merlin.net: 1-877-696-3754
- Biotronik CardioMessenger: 1-800-889-9066



The Valley Hospital Patient and Family Advisory Council has reviewed and approved this material to ensure that the patient and family perspective has been included.



The Snyder Center for  
**Comprehensive  
Atrial Fibrillation**

**The Snyder Center for Comprehensive Atrial Fibrillation**  
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## VALLEY MEDICAL GROUP DEVICE REMOTE MONITORING



**Everything Medicine Can Do.  
A Few Things Medicine Can't.**



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A Few Things Medicine Can't.**



**O**ur mission is to provide high-quality care with the most advanced technological tools available to our patients. Pacemakers and defibrillators are considered cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIEDs). You are receiving this brochure because you have undergone CIED implantation at The Valley Hospital. It is important that you and your CIED are followed appropriately to ensure that we can achieve the highest quality of long-term outcomes for your health.

## WHAT IS REMOTE MONITORING?

In the past, CIEDs were evaluated in the physician's office on a calendar-based schedule, usually every three to six months. However, most of today's CIEDs are "wireless" and can automatically transfer stored data to a central monitoring station where a physician can access the data for review. This makes it convenient for both the patient and physician and allows the physician to capture critical data in a timely manner. Importantly, national guidelines strongly support the use of remote monitoring in all patients following a CIED implant.<sup>1</sup>

There are five steps involved in this process:

1. You are enrolled into a remote monitoring program and your CIED is "paired" to a bedside communicator or cellphone.
2. Each night (with some exceptions) when you sleep, your CIED automatically communicates any critical information to the bedside communicator or cellphone.
3. The communicator then forwards the information – using an analog telephone line or via cellular communication – to a central monitoring station that is managed by the manufacturer of your CIED. If your data transmission occurs via your cellphone, it is done using a standard cellular connection.
4. The information is triaged by technicians trained for this purpose. The Valley Hospital contracts with 91Life to ensure that your critical data is reviewed in a timely manner.

5. Critical information that may suggest an issue with your device or health is immediately forwarded to The Valley Hospital electrophysiology team. In conjunction with your primary cardiologist, a plan for your care is developed and discussed with you.

## MAKE A PLAN PRIOR TO HOSPITAL DISCHARGE

We encourage you to have an active plan for CIED follow-up prior to hospital discharge. The Valley Hospital electrophysiology team will assume full care of your device as outlined in this brochure and ensure that the findings are communicated to your primary cardiologist. If you prefer that CIED follow-up be delivered entirely through your primary cardiologist, we encourage you to make sure that they are willing and able to manage you and your device in a similar manner.

## REMOTE MONITORING IMPROVES SURVIVAL RATES

Recent data has shown a marked improvement in survival when patients are enrolled into remote monitoring as soon as possible following CIED implantation and then remain connected to a central monitoring system. In fact, patients followed remotely have twice the rate of survival as compared to patients who do not take advantage of remote monitoring.<sup>2</sup>

## COST OF REMOTE MONITORING

A report for the results of monitoring will be distributed to your referring clinician either monthly or every three months. Since the clinical benefits of remote monitoring have now been shown in multiple clinical studies, all insurance providers now reimburse for this service. If you need any further information, our office can help provide answers to your questions.

1. Slotwiner D et al. *Heart Rhythm* 2015; 12: e69-100

2. Varma N et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2015; 65: 2601-2610