

Radiotherapy and heart devices

If you are having radiotherapy and have a heart device such as pacemaker or an internal cardiac defibrillator (ICD), we will need to check your device regularly. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor or radiographer caring for you.

Radiotherapy and your pacemaker/ICD

There is a small risk that radiotherapy treatment can cause temporary interference to the function of your heart device. For your safety, we want to take every precaution and do a full check at the beginning and end of your course of treatment. The cardiac physiologist in the pacing clinic will decide how often your heart device must be checked during your treatment. You will need to attend the pacing clinic after your pre-treatment appointment (CT scan, Guy's Cancer Centre), and after your first and last radiotherapy appointments.

Who arranges all the appointments for me?

The initial pacing appointment for the pacing clinic will be arranged for you. An explanation of when and where you will need to attend will be given to you at your pre-treatment appointment. The cardiac physiologist will then discuss further checking and appointments with you.

Where do I need to go?

The pacing (or cardiac rhythm management) clinic is based at St Thomas' Hospital in Cardiac Outpatients, Ground Floor, North Wing. The clinic is open from Monday to Friday between 8.45am and 5pm. There is also a limited service available at Guy's Hospital on the First Floor in the Southwark Wing every Wednesday and Thursday between 9am and 5pm.

What do I need to bring with me?

Please carry your heart device ID card with you at all times. This ID card would have been given to you when your device was inserted and it has useful information that the staff in the cardiac department will require before they check your device. You will also be asked when your device was last checked. Please also bring this information with you when you attend your pre-treatment appointment.

Contact us

Radiotherapy bookings team 020 7188 3160
Cardiac outpatients 020 7401 9249

Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals offer a range of cancer-related information leaflets for patients and carers, available at www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/cancer-leaflets. For information leaflets on other conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets



Dimbleby Cancer Care provides cancer support services for Guy's and St Thomas'. We have a drop-in information area staffed by specialist nurses and offer complementary therapies, psychological support and benefits advice for patients and carers.

Dimbleby Cancer Care is located in the Welcome Village of the Cancer Centre at Guy's. **t:** 020 7188 5918 **e:** DimblebyCancerCare@gstt.nhs.uk

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the clinical nurse specialist or other member of staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk
t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and Accessible Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

t: 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

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