

Pacemaker and ICD Clinics

Pacemakers and implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICD) are small battery-powered, devices implanted in the chest to regulate the hearts rate and rhythm. Pacemakers are designed to correct bradycardias (slow heart rhythms) and ICD's tachycardias (fast heart rhythms). These devices are implanted at York Hospital. Patients with pacemakers and ICD's need to have their devices checked to monitor the clinical effectiveness of their devices and the status of the batteries and electronics. Clinic visits usually occur every three to four months, but could be more frequent depending on several factors, such as how old the device is or whether a device needs to be readjusted because of changes in a patient's medical status. Telephone follow-up is also done for pacemaker patients. Patients use a special transmitter to send their EKG to the clinic by phone. This allows patients the convenience of checking their pacemaker from anywhere they have access to a phone without having to come to the clinic for every checkup. Typically, an individual will be scheduled for telephone pacer checks once every three months, with one clinic visit scheduled per year.

