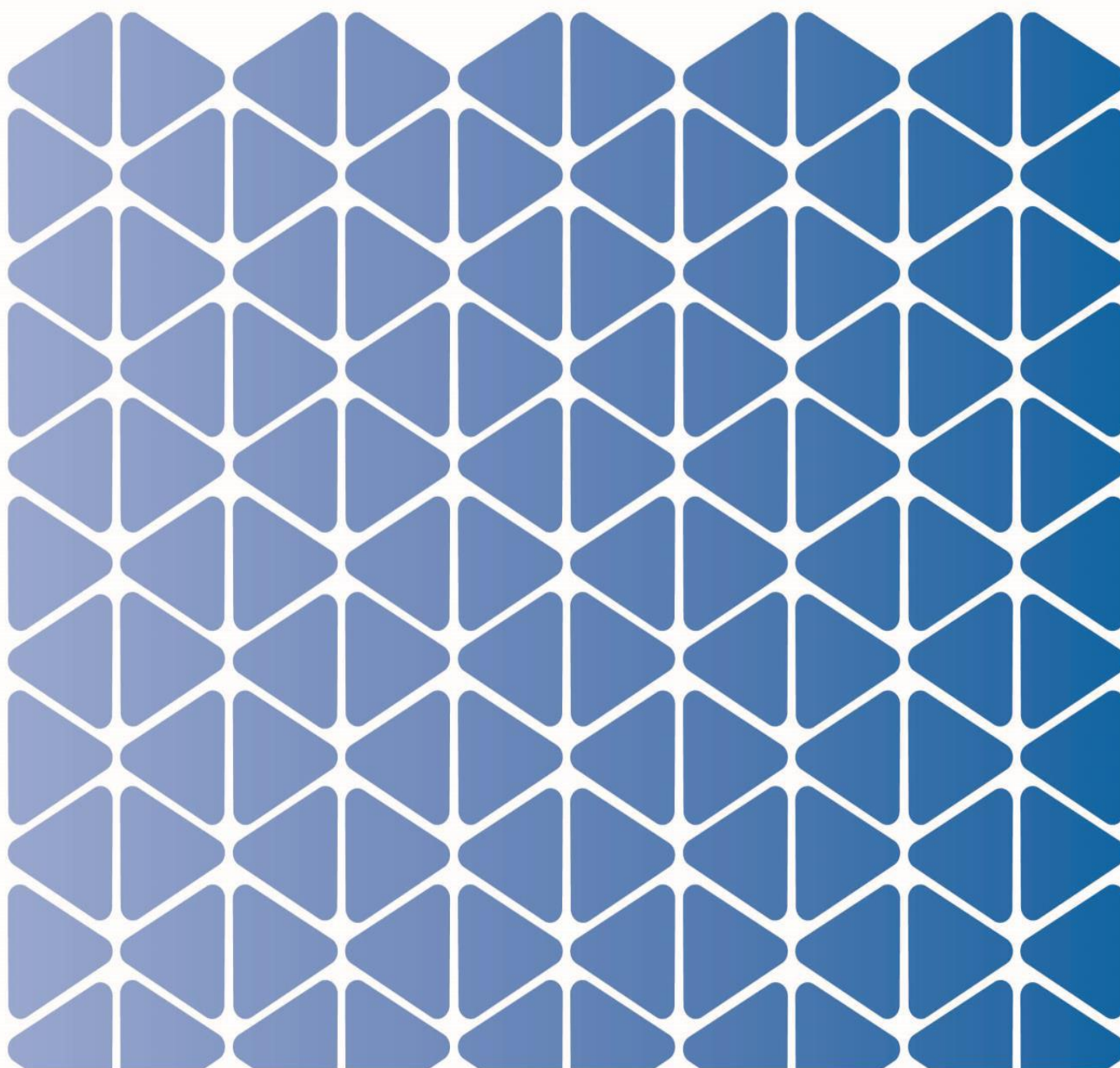


**PATIENT INFORMATION****INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS REGARDING A  
PRESSURE DRESSING**

## Why do I have a pressure dressing?

Sometimes after a pacemaker or other device has been inserted, the consultant or nurses will apply a pressure dressing on top of the site. This is to:

- Apply firm pressure to the wound area.
- Help reduce bleeding and bruising.
- Lower the risk of a collection of blood under the skin (haematoma)
- Support healing
- Reduce the risk of infection.

The pressure dressing will be applied over the top of a clear film dressing that is directly over the device site. We then use a syringe to inflate a small balloon that sits inside the pressure dressing to apply constant pressure to the site.

You will be advised by the consultant how long the pressure dressing is to stay inflated and in place for. When it is time to remove the pressure dressing:

- Remove all of the air from the dressing with the syringe supplied to you.
- Wash your hands thoroughly before removing any dressings.
- Carefully remove the pressure dressing, leaving the clear dressing underneath intact.
- **Do not attempt to remove pressure dressing before the day stated by the doctor, and do not attempt to remove without removing the air from the balloon first.**
- The pressure dressing and syringe are all single use – please throw away in the bin after use.

You will have been given aftercare advice from the Cardiopulmonary Team regarding your device, what you can and can't do after your procedure, any follow-up appointments, monitoring the device and your device's identification card.

It is very normal to notice after a device has been implanted:

- Mild swelling or bruising
- Some tenderness and discomfort at the site
- A small amount of dried blood around the site

Please seek medical advice from either the Cardiac Cath Lab team or your GP if:

- There is rapid swelling at the pacemaker site.
- There is fresh bleeding through the dressing.
- There is redness or a rash spreading around the wound.
- Any pus or discharge is coming from the site.
- You develop a fever above 38°C.
- The wound appears to be 'opening up' in any way.

If you have any concerns or are at all worried about any aspects of your recovery at home, you can contact us at Cath Lab, your GP or 111. **If you are concerned there is a life-threatening situation, please call 999 and explain to operators who can best advise you.**

Cardiac Catheter Lab  
Worcester Royal Hospital  
Monday – Saturday  
7:00am – 8:00pm  
Tel: 01905 733205

## **Patient Experience**

We know that being admitted to hospital can be a difficult and unsettling time for you and your loved ones. If you have any questions or concerns, please do speak with a member of staff on the ward or in the relevant department who will do their best to answer your questions and reassure you.

## **Feedback**

Feedback is really important and useful to us – it can tell us where we are working well and where improvements can be made. There are lots of ways you can share your experience with us including completing our Friends and Family Test – cards are available and can be posted on all wards, departments and clinics at our hospitals. We value your comments and feedback and thank you for taking the time to share this with us.

## **Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS)**

If you have any concerns or questions about your care, we advise you to talk with the nurse in charge or the department manager in the first instance as they are best placed to answer any questions or resolve concerns quickly. If the relevant member of staff is unable to help resolve your concern, you can contact the PALS Team. We offer informal help, advice or support about any aspect of hospital services & experiences.

Our PALS team will liaise with the various departments in our hospitals on your behalf, if you feel unable to do so, to resolve your problems and where appropriate refer to outside help.

If you are still unhappy you can contact the Complaints Department, who can investigate your concerns. You can make a complaint orally, electronically or in writing and we can advise and guide you through the complaints procedure.

## **How to contact PALS:**

**Telephone Patient Services: 0300 123 1732 or via email at: [wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net](mailto:wah-tr.PALS@nhs.net)**

## **Opening times:**

The PALS telephone lines are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.00pm. Please be aware that you may need to leave a voicemail message, but we aim to return your call within one working day.

If you are unable to understand this leaflet, please communicate with a member of staff.