

Information for the Traveling Pacemaker or Defibrillator Patient

SUMMARY

Patients with an implanted cardiac device such as a pacemaker or defibrillator may have questions about traveling with their device. This article will provide patients with valuable travel-related information.

ICD: Implantable Cardioverter
Defibrillator

CRT-D: Cardiac Resynchronization
Therapy Defibrillator

CRT-P: Cardiac Resynchronization
Therapy Pacemaker

CRM PRODUCTS REFERENCED*

All ICD, CRT-D, CRT-Ps and Pacing
Systems

LATITUDE® Patient Management System

*Products referenced herein may not be approved in all geographies. For comprehensive information on device operation, reference the appropriate product labeling.

CRM CONTACT INFORMATION

Technical Services – U.S.
1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422)
Tech.Services@bsci.com

Technical Services – Europe
+32 2 416 7222
eurtechservice@bsci.com

LATITUDE Clinician Support
1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422)
latitude@bsci.com

Patient Services
1.866.484.3268 – U.S. and Canada
001.651.582.4000 – International

Patients with Boston Scientific implantable cardiac devices, such as pacemakers and defibrillators, do not need to limit their travel due to their implanted device. However, it is important for patients to understand in advance the potential issues of travel and how best to manage them.

Preparing for Travel

Prior to traveling away from home, it is important for patients to talk with their heart physician. During this conversation, patients should:

- Review what to do in the event of a medical emergency.
- Review what to do if they receive a shock from their device (for patients with defibrillators).

Patients using the LATITUDE® Patient Management System should consider additional travel preparation, such as:

- Discuss with their physician how to manage scheduled remote follow-up sessions.
- Consider travel destination. The Communicator is designed for use **only** in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.
- Call the hotel to determine if an “analog data port” (typically used for a computer modem or fax machine) will be available for connecting the Communicator. Many hotels use digital PBX phone lines, which are not compatible with the Communicator.
- Pack the LATITUDE remote monitoring equipment with care. Consider packing the Communicator in carry-on luggage and the blood pressure monitor and weight scale in checked luggage.

At the Airport

When traveling by airplane, patients should present both their **Medical Device ID Card** and **Medical Device Patient Travel Card** to airport security personnel. These cards identify an implanted pacemaker or defibrillator, and instruct security personnel to avoid using handheld security wands over the implanted device.

- **Handheld security wands** – Some of these wands contain strong magnets that may adversely affect the function of the implanted device. Patients should request to be hand-searched without using a wand. If a handheld wand must be used, it should be passed over the device quickly.
- **Security archways** – Patients may walk through the security archway at a normal pace. Pacemakers and defibrillators may trigger airport security metal detector alarms; however, this will not harm the patient or reprogram their implanted device.

While Away from Home

Emergency Information

Ensure that local emergency information obtained from the physician or Boston Scientific CRM Patient Services is readily accessible, both to the patient and their travel companions.

LATITUDE Patient Management System

If a patient plans to use their Communicator away from home, the physician may need to temporarily change settings for some of the programmed scheduled events.

It is recommended that patients go through the Setup Check any time the Communicator is moved outside the home. This allows the patient to verify successful communication between their device and the Communicator, and to change the time zone, if needed. Once the Communicator is plugged in, the screen will read "Would you like to check the installation? If the Communicator has been relocated it is recommended that this check be performed." Select the Yes button and follow the on-screen instructions.

Questions

Patients are welcome to contact Boston Scientific Patient Services with any questions. Specific groups within Patient Services are designated to assist with the issues indicated below, as well as others areas of concern.

PATIENT SERVICES		
1.866.484.3268 (U.S. and Canada)—Select options 1, 2 or 3 as noted below 001.651.582.4000 (International)—Please request specific area as noted below		
LATITUDE Patient Support <i>Select Option #1</i>	Technical Patient Support <i>Select Option #2</i>	Medical Records <i>Select Option #3</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traveling with the LATITUDE remote monitoring system • General information on LATITUDE remote monitoring equipment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Communicator ➤ Weight scale ➤ Blood pressure monitor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airport security screening concerns • General implanted device information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Device ID Card and Medical Device Patient Travel Card • Clinic or hospital locations nearest to the travel destination <p><i>NOTE: The BSC CRM patient newsletter, LifeBeatSM Online (www.lifebeatonline.com) can also provide clinic or hospital locations nearest to the travel destination that have treated patients with Boston Scientific products and can help patients with matters related to their device.</i></p>
For medical-related questions, patients should contact their doctor.		