

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

What are the signs and symptoms of a CIED infection?

How do I know if I have an infection, or if I am just feeling unwell and experiencing similar symptoms?

What steps can I take to monitor my device and heart health?

Who do I contact if I suspect I have an infection?

If I get a device infection, can you tell me about treatment and recovery?

What are the current guidelines for lead removal if you have an infection?

What else should I know about living with a CIED?

If you have a CIED and any symptoms of infection,

do not delay in seeking medical advice urgently!



Want to Know More?

If you have any questions, or would like further advice or information, please contact our Patient Services Team.

Call:

+44 (0)1789 867501

Email:

info@heartrhythmalliance.org

or visit:

www.heartrhythmalliance.org

To view our patient resources, scan the QR code below:



 @ArrhythmiaAlliance

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This discussion guide was created in collaboration with The Mended Hearts, Inc.



The Mended Hearts, Inc.

Email: info@mendedhearts.org

or visit: www.mendedhearts.org

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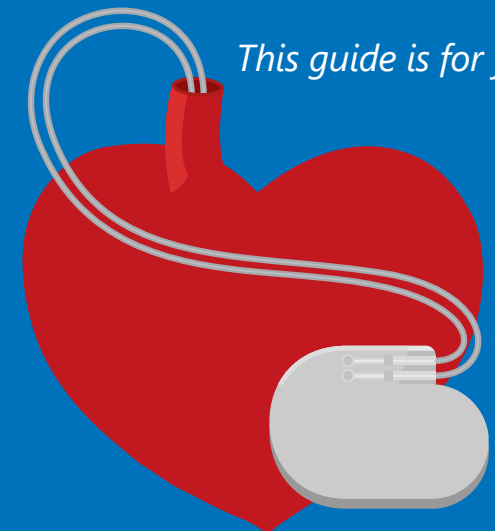
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FOR PATIENTS & CAREGIVERS

Do you have a cardiac implantable electronic device (CIED)?

This guide is for you.



Discussion Guide

Today, many people have cardiac implantable electronic devices (CRT \ ICD \ S-ICD) such as pacemakers and defibrillators. These devices are reliable and effective treatment options for many heart rhythm conditions; however,

patients should be aware of their risk of infection.



What is a CIED infection?

Infections with CIEDs can happen over time and are serious complications.

How do I know if I have a CIED infection?

Each infection may look different. You may be able to see the infection on your skin, but sometimes there are no visible signs. You may have symptoms though.



Symptoms of infection

- Fever, Chills, Nausea, Sweating, Fatigue
- Redness of the skin
- Pain or tenderness near device Swelling, warmth or a "hot" feeling
- Blood or drainage at the incision site
- Erosion of the device through the skin



Did you know...

An estimated **1 in 20**

will get a **CIED infection** in the first 15 years



Early detection and removal **saves lives**

Timely device extraction and lead removal for CIED infection

lowers the risk of death by about 43%



More than **60,000** patients globally will get a **CIED infection this year**



What do I do if I have an infection?

If you think you have an infection, contact your device clinic or your doctor as soon as possible! Your doctor may refer you to another specialist in device infection and extraction (removal).

The doctor will perform tests to confirm if you have an infection. If the tests are positive, your doctor will discuss treatment options with you and together you can make a plan if the device and leads need to be removed.

If the device is not removed, the **chance of getting another infection is between**

50-100%