

Discharge Instructions for Cardioversion

Your doctor performed a procedure called cardioversion. Your doctor used a controlled electric shock to briefly stop all electrical activity in your heart. This helped restore your heart's normal rhythm.

Home Care

- Don't drive until you know how the procedure has affected you.
- Don't be alarmed if the skin on your chest is wrinkled or feels like it is sunburned. These minor symptoms will go away in a few days.
- Ask your doctor about medications to keep your heart rhythm steady.
- Learn to take your own pulse. Keep a record of your results. Ask your doctor which pulse rates mean that you need medical attention.
- Remember, this procedure may need to be repeated at a later date. Half of patients who undergo cardioversion need a repeat procedure within a year.
- Talk to your doctor about the possibility of having a pacemaker inserted.
- Take your medications exactly as directed. Don't skip doses.

Follow-Up

Make a follow-up appointment as directed by our staff.

When to Call Your Doctor

Call your doctor right away if you have any of the following:

- Chest pain or shortness of breath
- Fainting
- Chest pain with increased activity
- Irregular heartbeat or fast pulse