

# Caring for your Child after Pacemaker or ICD Placement in the Cath lab

## Medications (may be ordered by your doctor)

- **Keflex (cephalexin):** This is an antibiotic medicine to prevent infection. Your child will take this medicine 4 times per day for 5 days after the surgery.
- **Tylenol® (acetaminophen):** Take as needed, for minor pain for 3 to 5 days after surgery.

## Pain

- It is normal to feel some pain after the medicine from surgery wears off.
- Call the doctor if your child's pain gets worse after the first day.
- It is normal for the area to be itchy 1 to 2 weeks after surgery as it heals.

## Incision (area where the skin was cut)

- **DO NOT** touch, rub, or scratch the area. This could cause an infection.
- Gently clean around the area every day with a wet, soft cloth and soap.
- Call the doctor if your child has:
  - fever (temperature above 100.5°F).
  - redness
  - swelling
  - bleeding
  - pus
  - worsening pain
- There will be a special glue used to close the cut on your child's skin.
  - DO NOT pick at the edges of the glue.
  - **In 1 to 2 weeks**, the glue will start to lift away from the skin. When this happens, take the glue off and gently clean.

## Showering and bathing:

- **Keep the incision dry for the first 2 days** after surgery.
- **After 2 days:**
  - Your child may shower and let the water run over the area.
- **Around 3-4 weeks** when the wound is completely healed:
  - Your child can soak in the bathtub and go swimming.

## Activity

- For 1 month, **DO NOT**:
  - **Raise the arm** above the shoulder on the same side as the pacemaker.
  - **Lift heavy objects** (10 or more pounds) with the arm on the same side as the pacemaker
  - **Participate in P.E.** (physical education) or other activities
  - Use backpacks

## Diet

- Your child may eat normal meals. No special diet is required.

## Back to School/Work

- Your child may go back to school or work 2 to 5 days after surgery.

## Questions or Problems?

If you have any problems or questions call:

- **Pacemaker/ICD Clinic:**
  - Stacey Boyer, RN (323) 361-8248
  - Noelle St. Angelo, RN (323) 361-7692

\*\*\*After hours, please call the hospital directly at (323) 361-2450 and have the Operator contact the on-call Cardiologist.

For emergencies call 911 or go to the nearest Emergency Room.