

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 provides patients with valuable travel-related information.

CRM PRODUCTS REFERENCED

All Boston Scientific ICDs, CRT-Ds, CRT-Ps, Pacing Systems, and the LATITUDE Patient Management System

Products referenced herein are identified by trademarks of Cardiac Pacemakers Inc., a Boston Scientific company, and may not be approved in all geographies. For comprehensive information on device operation, reference the appropriate product labeling.

CRT-D: Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy Defibrillator
CRT-P: Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy Pacemaker
ICD: Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator

CRM CONTACT INFORMATION

United States

www.bostonscientific.com

Technical Services – U.S.
LATITUDE Clinician Support – U.S.

1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422)
+1.651.582.4000
tech.services@bsci.com
latitude@bsci.com

Patient Services
1.866.484.3268

International

www.bostonscientific-international.com

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

International LATITUDE Customer Support
www.latitude.bostonscientific-international.com
latitude.international@bsci.com

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.
 - If the Communicator was prescribed in the United States, it is designed for use in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.
 - If the Communicator was prescribed in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom, it is designed for use in any of those geographies.
- 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. Patients should consider packing the Communicator in carry-on luggage, and if they have a prescribed blood pressure monitor and/or weight scale, consider packing them in checked luggage.

At the Airport

When traveling by airplane, patients should present both their **Medical Device ID Card** and, if available, their **Medical Device Security 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 temporarily 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 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 scheduled remote interrogations.

If a Communicator is moved outside the home, it is recommended that the patient repeat the setup process. By following the on-screen instructions, the patient can verify successful communication between their device, the Communicator, and the weight scale and blood pressure monitor (if used). This process will also allow the patient to change the time zone (US only), if necessary.

- If the patient's Communicator was prescribed in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, or the United Kingdom, and the patient is traveling within those countries, they should select their current location as part of the normal Communicator setup process. Also if traveling to a different country, a different style of telephone jack adapter and power supply may be needed.

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		
<i>Option #1</i>	<i>Option #2</i>	<i>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 questions • General implanted device information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical Device ID Card and Medical Device Security 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 physician.		