

SUMMARY

Patients with an implanted heart device such as a pacemaker or defibrillator may have questions about traveling with their device.

This article provides heart patients with valuable travel-related information.

Products Referenced

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

Products referenced herein may not be approved in all geographies. For comprehensive information on device operation, reference the full instructions for use found at: www.bostonscientific.com/cardiac-rhythm-resources/international-manuals.html.

CAUTION: Law restricts this device to sale by or on the order of a physician. Indications, contraindications, precautions and warnings can be found with product labeling.

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

Contact Information

Americas

(Caribbean, and Central, North, and South America)

www.bostonscientific.com

Technical Services

LATITUDE® Customer Support

1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422)

+1.651.582.4000

Patient Services

1.866.484.3268

Europe, Middle East, Africa

Technical Services

+32 2 416 7222

eurtechservice@bsci.com

LATITUDE Clinician Support

latitude.europe@bsci.com

Asia Pacific

Technical Services

+61 2 8063 8299

aptechservice@bsci.com

japantechservice@bsci.com

LATITUDE Customer Support

latitude.asiapacific@bsci.com

japan.latitude@bsci.com (Japan)

Information for the Traveling Pacemaker or Defibrillator Patient

Preparing for Travel

Before traveling away from home, talk with your heart doctor and ask:

- *What should I do if I have a medical emergency?*
- *Who should I call if I receive a shock from my device?*
- *Do you want to see me in the clinic before I leave?*

Additional considerations if you use a LATITUDE® Patient Management System:

- *Should I continue with scheduled remote follow-up sessions while away?*
- *Will my LATITUDE Communicator work in the country where I am going?*
 - LATITUDE Communicators were designed for use in your home country. However, some versions may work in other countries. Please contact Boston Scientific Patient Services at the number in this article to find out if your Communicator will work at your destination. Contact your doctor or LATITUDE-following clinic to determine if any adjustments (for example, time zones and follow-up schedules) need to be made before you go.
 - If traveling to another country, a different style of telephone connector and power supply plug may be needed.
- *Will my Communicator work in my hotel?*
 - Call your hotel to find out if they have analog data ports, usually used to connect a computer or fax machine, in the rooms. Some hotels use digital PBX phone lines, which will not work with your Communicator. [Note that if you have a cellular phone plan with your LATITUDE NXT Communicator, you will not need a data port.]
- *Pack your LATITUDE Communicator in carry-on luggage. If you use a blood pressure monitor and/or weight scale, you may pack them in your checked luggage.*

At the Airport

When traveling through airport security, have your **Medical Device ID Card** available. This card identifies you as a patient with an implanted pacemaker or defibrillator.

- **Handheld security wands** – Some wands contain strong magnets that may temporarily affect the function of your implanted device. If a handheld wand must be used, it should be passed over the device quickly. In general, a hand-search is preferred to wand use.
- **Security archways** – Walk through security archways at a normal pace (do not linger). Pacemakers and defibrillators may trigger airport security metal detector alarms. However, this will not harm you or your device.
- **Airport Body Scanners** – The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) currently uses two types of full-body “people scanners” — X-ray scans and millimeter wave scans. Neither type of scanner should affect your implanted pacemaker or defibrillator system. Step away from the scanner if you feel poorly.

While Away From Home

Emergency Information

Always carry emergency information with you. You should have the information both for local assistance at your destination as well as your home physician's contact information. Make this information readily available to your travel companions. If you are relocating for a longer period of time you may want to request a print-out from your most recent device interrogation. This will identify device settings and predicted longevity.

LATITUDE Communicator

When you arrive, repeat the setup process following the on-screen instructions. This will verify successful communication between your implanted heart device, the Communicator, and the weight scale and blood pressure monitor (if used). This process will also allow you to change the time zone (US only), if necessary. If you are outside of your home country, contact Boston Scientific Patient Services or your doctor for additional Communicator setup information.

Questions

For emergencies, you should contact local emergency personnel. For medical-related questions, contact your heart doctor. Patients with non-medical questions in regard to the device or Communicator are welcome to call the numbers in the following table.

Location	Question Regarding	Call
United States and Canada	LATITUDE Communicator	Boston Scientific Patient Services 1.866.484.3268
United States and Canada	Device	Boston Scientific Technical Services 1.800.CARDIAC (227.3422)
Europe, Middle East, Africa	LATITUDE Communicator OR Device	Boston Scientific Technical Services +32 2 416 7222
Asia Pacific	LATITUDE Communicator OR Device	Boston Scientific Technical Services +61 2 8063 8299

NOTE: The BSC CRM patient newsletter, LifeBeatSM Online lists clinic and hospital locations familiar with Boston Scientific products nearest to your travel destination. Go to The Traveling Patient section of www.lifebeatonline.com, and click on the Travel with Your Device section. The clinics and hospitals on this list can help patients with matters related to their device.