



Cardioversion

Baystate Medical Center's Heart and Vascular Services staff are committed to providing you with an excellent, comfortable, and safe experience. We hope you will find the following information useful as you prepare for your procedure.

If you have an arrhythmia (irregular heart rhythm) called atrial fibrillation, your doctor may schedule you for a cardioversion. A cardioversion will provide electrical current to your heart to convert your atrial fibrillation back to sinus rhythm (regular rhythm).

Before Your Procedure

It is very important that you do not eat or drink after midnight on the night before the procedure. You may take your morning medications with a small amount of water, unless otherwise instructed by your physician. You will come to the hospital on the day of procedure and return home the same day.

When You Arrive at Baystate Medical Center

Wheelchairs are available at the hospital's main Daly Entrance if you need one. Please check in at the reception desk, where you will receive directions to your unit.

On your unit, you will be brought to your room, and asked to put on a hospital gown and slippers. Your nurse will start an IV, obtain lab work if ordered by your doctor, and may connect you to a heart monitor. We will arrange to communicate with your family member or friend after your procedure.



Pre-Procedure Area

We will bring you to the EP pre-procedure area on a stretcher. A nurse will ask you several questions, and check your blood pressure, heart rate and breathing. Your doctor will be in to speak to you before the procedure.

During the Procedure

The procedure is performed in the Electrophysiology Laboratory. We will bring you to the laboratory on a stretcher, where you will stay for the procedure. The EP staff will connect you to a variety of monitoring equipment to watch you closely during the procedure. Through your IV, the nurse will give you medications that make you comfortable and sleepy.



Getting Here

Baystate Medical Center
759 Chestnut Street, Springfield, MA
Main Hospital: 413-794-0000 • EP Lab: 413-794-2965

From the North: From Route 91 southbound, take Birnie Avenue, Exit 11. Bear right off the exit ramp, and take your first right on Walter Street. Proceed through the lights to the next intersection, and take a left on Springfield Street, then take your first right on Medical Center Drive.

From the South: From Route 91 northbound, take Main Street, Exit 10. Proceed ahead for two blocks until you are facing the medical center. Take a left and then bear right on Springfield Street, then take your first right on Medical Center Drive.

After Your Test

You should not feel any discomfort from the procedure. Once the procedure is over, you will be asked to rest in your room for about one hour. After that, you should go home and rest for the rest of the day. You should have someone stay with you overnight, and can return to your normal activities in 24 hours.

- ♥ Minor skin irritation at the sites of the cardioversion pad placement may occur. If you experience this, you may use any moisturizing skin cream on these areas as needed. If extreme redness or blistering occurs, please contact your physician.
- ♥ Continue your diet as usual.
- ♥ You may resume your daily medication schedule unless otherwise instructed by your physician prior to discharge.
- ♥ Since your coordination and judgment may be altered by medication, a responsible adult must drive you home from the hospital.
- ♥ You should not drive, operate machinery, drink alcohol, or sign legal documents for 24 hours.
- ♥ Any depressant medication, such as sleeping pills, should be avoided for 24 hours unless otherwise directed by your physician.

From the East: Take Exit 6 off the Massachusetts Turnpike. Beyond the toll booth, turn left on to Route 291. Remain on 291 until it merges with Route 91 North. Follow the "From the South" directions at left.

From the West: Take Exit 4 off the Massachusetts Turnpike. Pick up Route 91 South after the toll booth. Stay on Route 91 South and take Birnie Avenue, Exit 11. Follow the "From the North" directions at left.

Free valet parking is available at the Daly entrance, or you may self-park in the Daly Garage.