



## Outpatient cardioversion

### **Discharge instructions**

*If you have any questions that are not answered by these instructions, please call your nurse or doctor.*

You recently had a cardioversion. An electrical charge was used to restore your heart to a normal rhythm. Please follow the instructions below after you are discharged.

#### **Anesthesia**

You received short-acting anesthesia during your procedure. Because of the anesthesia, you may not drive for 24 hours. You will receive additional instructions regarding recovery from anesthesia. Please follow these instructions carefully.

#### **Medications**

Be sure to talk with your doctor before you leave about what medications you should and should not take once you are at home. In particular, if you are taking blood thinners (Coumadin, aspirin), please be sure you understand your doctor's instructions regarding these medicines. Call your doctor's office if you have any questions regarding your medications.

#### **How you may feel**

Most patients feel well after the procedure. However, you may have soreness in the chest or a skin burn where the electrical current was applied. This will resolve in a few days. You may also feel drowsy for the rest of the day because of the anesthesia.

#### **Activity**

You should rest the day of your procedure while you may still feel effects of the anesthesia. You may resume normal activity the following day.

#### **Get help if symptoms occur**

Please get help right away if any of the following occur:

- rapid heart beat or palpitations
- dizziness
- shortness of breath
- passing out
- numbness, or arm/leg weakness
- difficulty with speech

#### **Follow-up**

Plan to see your doctor within one month of the cardioversion. Contact the office if you do not have an appointment.