**PERMANENT PACemaker IMPLANTATION**

**Pacemaker Implantation** is a minor surgical procedure performed in the OR or Cardiac Catheterization Lab at the hospital under local anesthesia and conscious sedation.

The pulse generator is attached to leads which enter the Right Atrium (RA) and Right Ventricle (RV) via the venous system. The pulse generator (pacemaker) is placed in a pocket usually below the left clavicle above the left breast area. There may be a small bump here depending on the amount of soft tissue (fat) that is present.

There are single chamber (RV) pacemakers and dual chamber units (RA and RV). There are even 3 chamber units (BIV pacers). Some units incorporate defibrillators (ICD) for high risk patients.

The procedure takes less than an hour and the main risks are infection and air in the lungs requiring evacuation (pneumothorax) and lead dislodgement.

The patient is usually observed overnight unless it is just a battery change. Batteries last about 4 to 9 years. You are also administered an intravenous antibiotic for the procedure.

We check your pacemaker every 6 months in the office and make appropriate adjustments with a programmer.

You cannot have a MRI scan once the pacemaker is inserted since it is metallic. You can get a CT scan, however.

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Patient            Date                     Dr. Parrish

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Print name