

# Patient Information

## Dorsal Column Stimulation

You have had an electrical device implanted into your back. The device has been programmed while you were in the operating theatre, but it is likely that it will require further programming over the next few weeks.

There are various matters which may occur postoperatively of which you should be aware:

1. Headache – this is very uncommon. It is worse if you sit or stand up, and better if you lie down. Drink plenty of fluid, particularly tea, coffee, or coca cola. We anticipate that this will resolve over the next few days.
2. Infection - this is very uncommon. Notify the Pain Management Unit immediately on 08 8204 5499 if you develop redness around your wounds, increasing pain, discharge from your wounds or a fever.
3. Internal bleeding – this is very rare. Notify the Pain Management Unit immediately on 08 8204 5499 if you develop increasing backpain with weakness and/or numbness in your legs. If for any reason you cannot contact the Pain Management Unit, you should go immediately to the Flinders Medical Centre Emergency Department.

You will stop for a check-up with your doctor at the Pain Management Unit on your way home from the Repatriation General Hospital. You will then return to the Pain Management Unit in 10 days' time for removal of sutures. At this point we will also start the process of reprogramming your stimulator. You will then have regular appointments for medical reviews and reprogramming as required.

### For more information

Pain Management Unit  
Flinders Medical Centre  
Level 2, Northern Entrance  
Telephone: (08) 8204 5499  
Fax: (08) 8374 1758

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This document has been reviewed and endorsed by consumers.



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