



ALL LOCATIONS TOLL FREE 1-800-243-1912

## IMPLANTABLE DEFIBRILLATOR CLINIC

Another miraculous device is the implantable defibrillator. As with the pacemaker, because it is a device, the defibrillator needs to have routine follow-up clinic visits, usually every 3 - 6 months. Electrode patches and wires are attached to the chest to give a recording of the electrical activity of the heart. This tracing is transmitted to a special computer. The computer also has a special "wand" that is applied over the ICD (implantable cardioverter defibrillator) that allows communication between the device and the computer. Special tests are completed during this visit to determine if the device is working appropriately and as to the patient's needs. This communication also informs the clinic staff of how many times the device discharged, what was the rhythm before discharge and how much life the battery has left. All this testing is done "non-invasively", or, in other words, outside the body and without discomfort. This test usually lasts no more than 30 minutes. The physician's orders and the results of the testing will determine the frequency of the follow-up visit.

In addition to routine ICD clinic visits, some patients are enrolled in remote ICD monitoring. This allows the defibrillator to be checked from home or anywhere in the United States using a standard phone line. Information is sent to a secure internet site and reviewed by the device clinic staff. Remote ICD monitoring provides information about the battery and leads as well as information about any abnormal heart rhythms that have occurred. Patients enrolled in home monitoring continue to be seen in the clinic according to the physician's orders.