



The ICD Support Group of Manitoba

THE ICD SUPPORT GROUP OF MANITOBA

Volume 14 - October 2014

SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS

At our June 2014 meeting we were joined by Dr. Colette Seifer, Director WRHA Arrhythmia Program at St. Boniface Hospital along with Dr. Neil Swirsky and Victoria MacDonald RN from Manitoba Public Insurance, Medical Compliance & Assessments. Dr. Seifer spoke on "ICD's and Driving". A recap of her presentation follows. Please remember this information relates to the Province of Manitoba.

Manitoba operates under a Class License System. There are 6 classes plus a 3 stage Graduated Driver Licensing for new drivers. (for more details see www.mpi.mb.ca/en/PDFs/ClassLicenceSystemBrochure.pdf). The responsibilities for the individual driver, the physician and the registrar are outlined below.

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FALL MEETING - SATURDAY NOVEMBER 8, 2014

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Alex Tischenko from the Pacemaker/Defibrillator Clinic. There will be a question and answer session with Dr. Tischenko after his presentation.

Please join us for refreshments, fellowship and information. The reception prior to the meeting is a great way to meet others living with an ICD. We encourage you to bring along one or more family members or guests.

**RECEPTION : 1:00 P.M.
GUEST SPEAKER: 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
ST BONIFACE GENERAL HOSPITAL RESEARCH CENTRE
G. CAMPBELL MACLEAN BUILDING
351 TACHE AVENUE
SAMUEL N. COHEN AUDITORIUM, MAIN FLOOR**

The closest parking lot is at the south end of the Hospital (near Emergency). The Research Centre is the large building at the southwest end of the Hospital closest to Tache Ave.

There is no need to confirm your attendance.

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VOLUNTEER BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Larry Sherman, President
- Greg Smith, Volunteer Coordinator & Director
- Jake Suderman, Director
- Dianne Brown, Director
- Bob Mawson, Director
- Jerry Samels, Director



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INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY

- every applicant for a class 5, 6, or 7 license with a significant medical problem shall file a medical report which must be approved prior to any license being issued.
- The holder of a license class 1 to 6 with a significant medical problem shall file an initial medical report and follow up medical reports when requested by the registrar.
- Every new applicant for a class 1 to 4 license shall file a medical report on a form provided by the registrar with the application for a license.
- The holder of a license in a class 1 to 4 shall file a medical report, on a form furnished by the registrar, upon initial application or when requested by the registrar, and thereafter every ten years up to the age of 39, every five years between the age of 40 and 60 and every two years after age 60.

PHYSICIAN'S RESPONSIBILITY

- A duly qualified medical practitioner or optometrist shall report to the registrar the name, address and disease or disability, or any significant change in a previously observed disease or disability, of any person attending upon the duly qualified medical practitioner or optometrist for examination or treatment who is the holder of a valid and subsisting driver's license and who, in the opinion of the duly qualified medical practitioner or optometrist, has a disease or disability that may be expected to interfere with the safe operation of a motor vehicle that may be operated with the class of license or permit held by the person. (Section 157(1) of the Highway Traffic Act)
- No person has a right of action against a duly qualified medical practitioner or optometrist for furnishing to the registrar a report as mentioned in section (1). (Section 157(2) of the Highway Traffic Act)

REGISTRAR'S RESPONSIBILITY (Manitoba Public Insurance, Driver & Vehicle Licensing)

- Although the physician is asked to provide medical information and recommendations, ultimately it is the responsibility of Manitoba Public Insurance, Driver and Vehicle Licensing to determine if the driver meets the medical standards. The decision to issue or refuse a license is made by them.

CURRENT GUIDELINES

- Patients with no prior serious arrhythmia but who receive an ICD because they are at high risk, require 1 month of no driving.
- Patients who have experienced a serious arrhythmia requiring a shock associated with loss or near loss of consciousness, no driving for 6 months.
- Patients who have experienced a serious arrhythmia and shock with no loss of consciousness, no driving for 3 months.

CURRENT PROCESS

- At the time of an ICD implantation, the physician will complete a form and forward it to Driver & Vehicle Licensing.
- At the time of receiving an appropriate shock, a form will be completed and forwarded to Driver & Vehicle Licensing.
- The clinic will arrange an appointment as close to the anticipated time of license renewal.

The Medical Compliance and Assessments department at Manitoba Public Insurance is responsible for assessing driver's medical fitness to drive safely. This group reviews some 50,000 medical reports each year from physicians and optometrists as well as reports filed by law enforcement, families or drivers directly. Their staff includes: a medical advisor who provides advice on files, medical standards and policies and procedures, as well as acting as a liaison with the medical community; medical assessments staff who review medical information and take action as needed and registered nurses who assess and deal with more complex medical issues. For additional information, contact Medical Compliance & Assessments at 204-985-1900 or toll free at 1-866-617-6676. You can also view a copy of their booklet "Medical Conditions and Driving" at www.mpi.mb.ca/en/PDFs/MedicalConditionsDriving.pdf.



DID YOU KNOW.....??

REMOTE MONITORING

This is an update to the article in our May 2014 newsletter. The Pacemaker/Defibrillator Clinic advises that the rollout of Medtronic "CareLink" remote monitors is actively underway. Many patients have now received and are using their monitor. For those who have yet to receive their monitor this will be discussed during an upcoming scheduled appointment at the clinic. Once the rollout of Medtronic "CareLink" remote monitors is complete distribution of remote monitors will begin to those patients with non Medtronic devices. It is important to understand that the information transmitted via a remote monitor is the same as if you were at the clinic. These units are compact and come with their own case which fits easily in a suitcase for travel.

BRANDON (WESTMAN) AREA MEETINGS

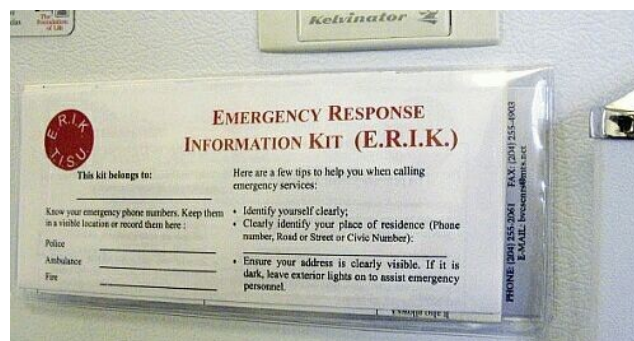
We recognize that attending the semi annual support group meetings in Winnipeg is simply not possible for many patients and family members due to the distance involved. We know a number of patients reside in western Manitoba so our intention is to hold satellite meetings in Brandon starting in 2015 to make it a bit easier for ICD patients and family members to get together. Bob Mawson from our board has offered to host these sessions. If you would like to be on the mailing list for these meeting announcements please let Bob know. (see contact information on last page of this newsletter)

INTERROGATION PRINTOUT

It is strongly recommended that you carry your most recent interrogation printout with you at all times. You will receive this each time you have a checkup in the clinic. The reason being is that during regular office hours clinic staff can access any needed information however outside of clinic hours a chart must be pulled and the information interpreted and provided by medical records technologists. This could lead to a delay in receiving optimal care in an emergency situation.

E.R.I.K. - EMERGENCY RESPONSE INFORMATION KIT

E.R.I.K. is an Emergency Response Information Kit developed by a community Advisory Council in response to community concerns regarding the availability of adequate information in emergency situations. All Manitoba emergency groups have endorsed this program. The kit is ideal for seniors, chronically ill persons, those who live alone or who have caregivers and others who have speech difficulties or communication barriers. Once completed, the kit provides the necessary information for emergency personnel to respond quickly to the situation. Completed kits are placed on the fridge door (see picture below) where emergency crews have been trained to look for it. You may even want to take a copy of E.R.I.K. with you when traveling. It is important to update the form as information changes. Kits are available through any Community Resource Council in Manitoba. For more information go to the Seniors Resource Centre web site at www.seniors.cimnet.ca. Click on "Health" and scroll down to E.R.I.K.





**THE ICD SUPPORT GROUP
OF MANITOBA**

www.icdsupportgroupofmanitoba.com

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WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

- If you haven't done so already check out our own website. Please send any feedback to Larry Sherman.
 - www.icdsupportgroupofmanitoba.com
- Canadian Congenital Heart Alliance
 - www.cchaforlife.org
- This U.S. company offers two products that may be of interest to individuals with an ICD. One is a seat belt pad and the other is a bra strap pad. At the time of writing each product costs \$25.00 plus shipping. All prices are in U.S. dollars. If you order one of these or already have one and you like it please let us know.
 - www.aboutsofttouch.com
- This site offers a protective shield and custom compression shirt that may reduce the risk of direct trauma to an implanted pacemaker. This may be of interest to some ICD patients, however neither St. Boniface Hospital nor this support group endorse this product.
 - www.paceguard.com

**HEART & STROKE FOUNDATION
OF CANADA**

Did you know their website contains health resources for several different cultures. Specifically Chinese, South Asian, People of African Descent, First Nations, Inuit & Métis. Visit www.heartandstroke.com. At the top click on Health Information and then Multicultural Resources.

IN APPRECIATION

As always we are grateful for the financial support received from Medtronic and St. Jude along with a private donor.

We also appreciate the ongoing support of all the Pacemaker/Defibrillator clinic staff, in particular Esther McGimpsey who is our primary contact person.