

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

- ✓ What are the signs and symptoms of a CIED infection?
- ✓ If I have illness symptoms like chills or fever, how do I know if I'm sick or if it is related to my heart device?
- ✓ What steps can I take to monitor my device and heart health?
- ✓ If I believe I may have a device infection, who should I contact to get the best and fastest care and treatment?
- ✓ If I get a device infection, can you tell me about treatment and recovery?
- ✓ What are the current guidelines on lead removal for CIED infection?
- ✓ What else should I know about living with a CIED?



Learn More

For additional information and resources, visit:



1-843-415-1886
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The Mended Hearts, Inc.

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For patients & caregivers

CIED Discussion Guide

If you have a **cardiac implantable electronic device (CIED)**, this guide is for you.





Early detection and removal saves lives

How do I know if I have a CIED infection?

Each infection may look different. You may be able to see the infection on your skin, but sometimes there are no visible signs. You may have symptoms though.

Symptoms

- Fever
- Chills
- Nausea
- Sweating
- Fatigue
- Redness of the skin
- Pain or tenderness near device
- Swelling, warmth or a "hot" feeling
- Blood or drainage at the incision site
- Erosion of the device through the skin



If you have a CIED and any of these symptoms, contact your healthcare provider right away!

What do I do if I have an infection?

If you think you have an infection, contact your heart doctor as soon as possible! Your doctor may refer you to another specialist in device infection and extraction (removal).

The doctor will do tests to confirm infection. If the tests are positive, your doctor will discuss treatment options with you and together you can make a plan if the device and leads need to be removed. **If the device is not removed, the chance of getting another infection is between 50 and 100%.**



Timely device extraction and lead removal for CIED infection lowers the risk of death by about 43%.

Today, many people have **cardiac implantable electronic devices (CIEDs)** such as pacemakers and defibrillators (IEDs). These devices are reliable and effective treatment options for many heart rhythm issues; however, patients should be aware of their risk of infection.

What is a CIED infection?

Infections with CIEDs can happen over time and are serious complications.

**1
in
20**

will get a CIED infection in the first 15 years



**>
60,000**

patients globally will get a CIED infection this year

