

Defibber News

March 2021



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

"Welcome to our Spring edition of the Defibber News which I trust finds you well during these strange and difficult times. Thankfully, the vaccination programme is now well underway and hopefully, by the time you receive this, many of you will have at least received one jab if not two!

This pandemic has forced many of us to change and adapt and your ICD Patient Support Group is no different. You will have noticed that your newsletter is shorter and the format has changed, this is basically down to resources and cost, however we wish to reassure all of our fellow patients that we are still here and available to offer you help and support.

Our contact phone number is:
07973541382

From time to time, members of our Support Group have asked if they could make a donation to help finance the Newsletter and assist in the cost of organising our Groups Meetings. Members, if they so wish, can now make a donation direct to the Support Groups Bank, the details of which are:

WYTHENSHAW ICD SUPPORT GROUP

Sort Code: 30-91-91

Account Number: 30781868

Emma Maiden: Treasurer,
12 The Willows,
Cranwell Village,
Lincolnshire, NG34 8XG

Our website - (<https://wythenshaweicd.wixsite.com/icdsupport>) - is now regularly updated and contains various articles, interesting pieces of information and announcements so I would urge you to check it from time to time. Hopefully, sometime in the not too distant future we will be able to resume normal service and hold our open meetings again. Please take great care out there and stay safe".

Kind Regards to all - **Paul Davis (Chairman).**



Henry Christopher
COMMERCIAL PRINTERS

weprintbannershere

james court | hardman way | darwen | lancashire | bb3 1db
01254 774444
sales@henrychristopher.com
www.henrychristopher.com

Message from Adrienne

If you are lucky enough to be able to afford the new iPhone 12 you may want to know about an issue with this phone. It uses magnets in some of its functions which are bad news for people with ICDs or CRT-Ds. You can read more about this in our website <https://wythenshawicd.wixsite.com/icdsupport>

You may also have been called back to the hospital to have your device checked. Please note the following important information about entering Wythenshawe hospital. You will likely be asked to remove your own face mask and use one of the blue and white face masks which are provided on entry to the hospital. This is because we know these masks are clean and effective in reducing the spread of COVID 19. There is also hand gel at every entrance to the hospital and entrances are usually manned by a member of the security team. Please use the gel on entering and leaving the Trust and wash your hands when you arrive back home.

We are not able to support any applications for getting the COVID vaccine earlier. Your invitation to come for your vaccine will be sent via the NHS and not us. Patients with poorly controlled heart failure are classed as high priority and will get their vaccine as soon as possible. There are very strict guidelines on who gets their vaccine and when. You can get more information on this by going to <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirusvaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

The National Institute for health and Care Excellence (NICE) has approved a drug called dapagliflozin to treat heart failure. This is normally used for patients with diabetes but research has shown that it is clinically effective in controlling heart failure. You can read more about this online <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/health/heart-failure-nice-dapagliflozinb1778356.html> or the article link is on our website. Not everyone will be suitable for this drug so when you next have your telephone consultation at Wythenshawe hospital, ask if you are eligible.

The process for device checks has had to change following the COVID 19 pandemic. Before, you would usually have a device check every 6 or 12 months and if there were any issues with your device or medicines, you would be sent through to the medical team of doctors and nurses.

Now, you will have the same regular device checks (either in clinic or through your remote monitor) and one telephone consultation per year with a member of the medical team to review you. This is to review you, your symptoms and to check you are on the right doses of your medicines. This will be separate appointment to your device check. If we need to see you sooner, we will let you know.

If you have any problems, you can call the Cardiac Rhythm Management nurses (formerly the Arrhythmia nurses) to discuss further. Always try to have your hospital number available (this used to start with a RM2 but this has now changed). Your hospital number at Wythenshawe hospital starts with the number 0. Please note that this is not an emergency phone line. If you feel very unwell, you should dial 999. You can also call your GP or 111. We do not work at the weekend or on bank holidays and there may be delays in us returning your call.

If you need to call us our numbers are on the Support Group website and in the ICD booklet, here they are below:-

0161 291 5076, 0161 291 5443, 0161 291 5998

You can also email us at mft.CRMnurseswythenshawe@nhs.net

We try to check this email regularly, but the best way to contact us is by telephone.

Adrienne