GUIDANT

June 24, 2005

Dear Patient,

This letter is intended to make you aware of important information about Guidant's VENTAK PRIZM® 2 DR Model 1861 implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD, or sometimes called "AICD") manufactured on or before April 16, 2002. We hope this letter will help answer questions you may have following recent news coverage regarding Guidant devices. We deeply regret any inconvenience or apprehension this may have caused you or your loved ones. Information about the unlikely but possible failure in these devices has been shared with physicians as well as regulatory bodies.

In 28 instances out of 26,000 devices implanted, PRIZM 2 DR devices developed an internal short during attempted delivery of a defibrillation shock. This short may prevent the ICD from delivering enough energy during the shock, and will prevent the device from delivering defibrillation shocks or pacing therapy in the future. This type of device failure is associated with at least one death in which the device did not provide full defibrillation energy. Because the safety and well being of patients is foremost in our minds, we wanted to let you know how to reduce the risk of injury due to this problem.

What you should do:

- Continue to keep your normal doctor appointments.
- If you feel a shock, contact your doctor as soon as possible.
- If you are not sure which model you have, or if you have other questions regarding your device, you should consult with your physician.

We have recommended to your physician that he or she continue normal follow-up visits as described in your patient handbook. While we cannot recommend any tests to your physician that will predict if a device will fail in the future, normal follow-up evaluations will identify if your device has experienced this internal short. Because our analysis indicates the failure rate will be low, we have not recommended that your ICD be replaced if there is no sign your device has failed. Your physician may determine, through consultation with you, other courses of action appropriate for you based on your medical history.

We work every day to make sure that our products are the best they can be, and yet must acknowledge that despite our best efforts, this therapy, like all therapies, has limitations. Our employees are committed to the idea that each device they "touch" might eventually be implanted in a family member or friend, and be relied upon for extending or improving his or her quality of life. That, more than anything, helps Guidant employees maintain their steadfast dedication to patients.

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If you would like more information call 1-866-GUIDANT (1-866-484-3268) in the U.S. or visit www.guidant.com.

As always, please contact your physician if you have additional questions or concerns. It is our normal process to communicate with physicians directly about any updates or additional information.

Thank you.

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