

August 8, 2005

Dear Patient,

We are sending you this letter to update safety information you recently received regarding your implanted cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), VITALITY AVT or RENWAL AVT device model A135, A155, M150, M155, M157, M159, M170, M175, M177 or M179. We hope this letter will help answer questions you may have about what you should do following a new report of latching with the model that you may have heard about recently in the news. We deeply regret any inconvenience or apprehension this may have caused you or your loved ones. Information about the possible failure in these devices has been shared with physicians as well as regulatory bodies.

As of July 29, 2005, we have confirmed six device failures out of the 20,950 devices implanted worldwide. These failures resulted in device replacement and no apparent patient injury. We continue to investigate additional events. At the time of our original June 17, 2005 communication to physicians on this issue, there were two device failures that limited available therapy by suspending detection and treatment of atrial and ventricular arrhythmias. On July 11, 2005, a third device failure was reported in the United States. Guidant immediately began analysis and determined that this event occurred because one of our original recommendations relating to data storage programming actually increased the risk of device latching for some patients. The recommendations were revised and new programming guidelines were given to your doctor in a new letter on July 22nd.

**What you should do:**

- If you are not sure which model ICD you have, or if you have other questions, you should contact your doctor.
- Continue to keep your doctor appointments. Your physician may contact you to come in for an additional visit to interrogate and reprogram your device.
- Ask your doctor if there are other courses of action appropriate for you based on your medical history.

We will be providing your physician with a permanent software update for VITALITY AVT and CONTAK RENEWAL AVT models as soon as possible. Your doctor will see that you receive this update automatically at your next routine follow-up visit or at another time scheduled by the physician.

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.

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

We will continue to communicate with your doctor about any updates or additional information.

Thank you.



Allan Gorsett  
Vice President, Reliability and Quality Assurance  
Cardiac Rhythm Management  
Guidant Corporation