

Soundbite Script - A Real Lifesaver

Amy Kumlien, RN, OSF HealthCare

“A LifeVest® is a wearable defibrillator that people can use to prevent sudden cardiac death. They typically have a decreased heart muscle function that puts them at higher risk for this. It will monitor them and if they experienced arrhythmias, it will give them a shock treatment that could save their life.”

Amy Kumlien, RN, OSF HealthCare

“The ideal candidate to wear this vest is any person that has a decreased heart muscle function. So typically a decreased heart muscle function is considered anything less than 55% capacity. And these people typically are less than 35% and have experienced near sudden cardiac death. If they have lost consciousness at their home, and survived a lethal rhythm, they would also be someone who would be a candidate for it.”

Bridget Penwell, RN, OSF HealthCare

“It's kind of like wearing a seatbelt. You know you may never use the seatbelt, but it's there for protection in case you need it. If somebody does have a sudden cardiac event, arrhythmia, this life vest will deliver a shock treatment. Just like you see on TV, a defibrillator shocks them out of the lethal rhythm and can save their life.”

Bridget Penwell, RN, OSF HealthCare

“The vest can save your life. It may never go off, but all it takes is that one time. If you don't have it on that one time, you may miss out on watching your grandkids grow up. You don't get to see them grow up. I think that one time is very important. You know, so if it's a little uncomfortable for three months, hang in there, because it's well worth it.”