

## Keeping pace

Here's what to expect with a pacemaker

\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*

James Borberly, RN [BOR-blee]

OSF HealthCare

**"These devices are one of the things that man had made that change and save lives. Some of these diagnoses of certain heart blocks, without the pacemaker, many of those people wouldn't be alive." (:18)**

\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*

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OSF HealthCare

**"The battery and circuitry – the brain of the device – is all built in and sealed with titanium. There's a header. We put a couple wires called leads in there and tighten them down with screws." (:12)**

\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*

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**"We teach them more about how the device works, why they got it, expectations and the bodily changes they may see with it. I show them how their home monitor works." (:15)**

\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*

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**"If they have an arrhythmia, the device can catch it on a self-check it does every day. It communicates with the monitor. If it shows something is out of parameters, it'll send me a message." (:17)**

\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*

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**"They don't damage the pacemaker permanently. But they can influence the way it performs. It changes some of the programming when it's too close. It's not dangerous, But people may be symptomatic." (:17)**

\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*

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OSF HealthCare

**"When you pull the chute and the G-forces kick in where that harness is. It can physically pull those leads out of place. Get it done early, kids. Once you have a pacemaker, you probably want to take that off your bucket list." (:16)**

\*\*\*SOT\*\*\*

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OSF HealthCare

**"Patients went from 'I couldn't walk to my mailbox' to running a 5K." (:05)**