

### Dear Patient:

Cardioversion is a nonsurgical way to restore your heart's normal rhythm. Medication may be used first to correct an irregular heart beat but if this does not work, electrical cardioversion may be needed. During this procedure, your heart is given a small amount of electrical current by your doctor. The electrical current will help your heartbeat become normal again. The procedure will last approximately 30 minutes and will be done in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). You will be given medication that may make you drowsy before the procedure. You will probably not be aware of the procedure or remember what happened once the procedure is completed.

### Before Your Procedure

- Blood tests will be done
- An electrocardiogram (EKG) will be done
- You will be asked to sign a consent form
- Do not eat or drink for 6 hours before the procedure

### During Your Procedure

- Small pads (electrodes) are placed on your chest and you will be connected to a cardiac monitor to record your heart beat.
- A blood pressure cuff will be placed on your arm.
- An intravenous (IV) catheter is placed in your arm to give you medication for sedation, which makes you sleepy.
- A very brief (less than 1 second), low-dose electrical shock is given through large pads on your chest. One or more shocks may be needed to convert your heart to a normal rhythm.
- Oxygen will be given to you through a small tube in your nose.
- Your heart beat is watched to make sure the normal rhythm has been restored.

### After Your Procedure

- Your heart beat, blood pressure, respiration, and heart rhythm will be checked frequently by the nurse.
- You will stay in the ICU until you are fully awake and when awake, you will be given something to eat and drink. You may be moved to the Telemetry Unit for continued monitoring or you may be discharged to return home.
- You will wear a small heart monitor on the Telemetry Unit, but you can sit up and walk.
- When the patches are removed from your chest, you may notice some redness, pain, irritation, or itching which could feel like a mild sunburn.

### General Information

When you are discharged from the hospital, you may return to your normal routine. Your irregular heartbeat may return, so if you feel skipped beats, rapid heartbeat, or tightness in your chest, call your doctor.