

Medication Loading

Your cardiologist is requesting for you to be admitted for Medication Loading. One of our hospital procedure coordinators will be contacting you within the next 48 hours to interview and schedule a procedure date for you. Please have this packet available for your phone call as they will also review the attached instructions with you at that time and answer any questions you may have. Should you need to contact our scheduling department, please call the main number, 609-584-1212 and ask to speak with the procedure scheduling department.

LOCATION: SFMC RWJ- Hamilton

DATE: _____

FOLLOW UP APPT: at the Madison Office

Dr. Caplan Dr. Wjasow Dr. Sanyal

Date: _____ Time: _____

Medication Loading

Tikoysn (Dofetilide) / Sotalol (Betapace)

Tikosyn and Sotalol are medications known as antiarrhythmics. Antiarrhythmics are used to convert atrial fibrillation and/or atrial flutter to a normal heart rhythm.

In our practice these medications may be prescribed only by an electrophysiologist (a heart rhythm specialist). If your doctor has prescribed Tikosyn or Sotalol you will need to spend a few days in the hospital. The reason for this is because your heart rhythm must be monitored continuously on a telemetry unit during the initial load dosing of the medication. You may be prescribed one of the above medications but, not both.

Your doctor may order a TEE (Transesophageal Echocardiogram) which would be done on the day of your admission to the hospital. The TEE would confirm that there are no blood clots present in your heart and that it is safe for you to begin the medication.

The typical time in the hospital is 3-5 days depending on your body's response to the medication and when the medication is first administered. Tikosyn and Sotalol are twice a day medications and should be taken the same time every day. After several doses of Sotalol or Tikosyn your doctor may order a cardioversion to convert the abnormal rhythm to a normal rhythm. The antiarrhythmic medication will then work to help your body maintain the restored normal sinus rhythm. Once the cardioversion is completed you will be discharged home from the hospital.

The office will contact you to schedule the admission into the hospital. You may choose between Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital – Hamilton and St. Francis Medical Center.

There is no pre-admission testing for this admission. If you have a planned TEE you will be advised to fast after midnight and hold your diabetic medications. If there is no planned TEE you will not have to fast and can proceed with your normal morning routine.

You will receive a phone call the morning of your admission from the hospital when your room is available and your approved arrival time.

Following your admission you will have a follow up with your electrophysiologist within 7-14 days after discharge.

Prior to your hospital admission the office will contact your insurance company to verify the selected medication is indeed covered and affordable. The office will also obtain any precertification required for hospital stay.

Thank you for allowing Hamilton Cardiology to participate in your care. Your cardiovascular health is our priority. Please contact the office for any further questions or concerns.