

**Patients with Heart Devices Can Be Monitored from Home –  
The First in Northern Colorado**  
October 17, 2006

Heart Center of the Rockies, in conjunction with Boston Scientific, will be unveiling the LATITUDE™ System to 13 local patients, Thursday, October 19, noon, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor conference room at 2121 East Harmony. Available for the first time in Northern Colorado, the LATITUDE™ Patient Management System will allow patients with implanted radio frequency defibrillators (ICDs) to be monitored from home.

Patients with compatible devices will now be able to benefit from the convenience of remote follow-ups and gain the confidence that both their heart failure and device status can be monitored while they are at home. Regular monitoring of the patient's device status allows for earlier notification of clinical events, giving physicians the opportunity to intervene faster and potentially prevent further complications.

A problem with the heart's electrical system can lead to an abnormal heartbeat, or arrhythmia, that is either too slow or too fast. For patients with an abnormally fast heart rhythm, a cardiologist may recommend an implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD), a small battery-operated device, to help keep rapid heartbeats under control.

“We currently have 425 patients in our clinic with ICDs, “ says Ann Anderson, nurse practitioner and manager of the Device Clinic at Heart Center of the Rockies. “The newest ICD units are equipped with a radio frequency that allows status signals to be transmitted back to us at the clinic. We currently have 13 such patients and we anticipate that more patients will be retrofitted after the first of the year to take advantage of this home monitoring advancement.”

Heart Center of the Rockies will target their patients who live in rural areas or a significant distance from their clinics first. The remote system won't eliminate the need for periodical doctor visits or the patient's responsibility for taking medications and living a heart-healthy lifestyle, but it will alert clinicians earlier if there are issues of concern with their device.

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LATITUDE™ is the only remote patient management system aligned with both the American College of Cardiology, American Heart Association 2005 Heart Failure Guidelines for monitoring weight, blood pressure and quality-of-life symptoms, and the Heart Rhythm Society guidelines for automatic device surveillance. There is no additional charge to patients for the home remote system.

Heart Center of the Rockies provides advanced cardiovascular care throughout Northern Colorado, Wyoming and western Nebraska from 13 clinic locations. Heart Center of the Rockies has 15 cardiologists, 3 surgeons, 6 nurse practitioners and more than 150 highly qualified employees that provide compassionate care for all phases of heart-related conditions. For more information visit [www.heartcenteroftherockies.com](http://www.heartcenteroftherockies.com).

Boston Scientific is a worldwide developer, manufacturer and marketer of medical devices whose products are used in a broad range of interventional medical specialties. For more information visit [www.bostonscientific.com](http://www.bostonscientific.com).