

**SETTING** Hospital Radiography Department

**PATIENT** You are 67 years old and scheduled for a chest X-ray to screen for tuberculosis. You're concerned about the X-ray because you have a pacemaker (an implantable device that helps to regulate heart rate).

- TASK**
- When asked, say you're feeling fine but you're a little anxious about having the chest X-ray.
  - When asked, say you're just worried about the X-ray because you have an implanted pacemaker. You're concerned that the X-ray will affect the pacemaker's ability to function.
  - When asked, say you've already had several X-rays due to the implant; you're concerned that you'll now be exposed to even more radiation.
  - Say you think writing down the number of X-rays is a good idea.
  - When asked, say you'll start getting ready for the X-ray now. You feel better about having the X-ray.

**SETTING** Hospital Radiography Department

**RADIOGRAPHER** You see a 67-year-old patient who requires a chest X-ray to screen for tuberculosis. He/she is concerned about the X-ray because he/she has a pacemaker (an implanted device that helps to regulate heart rate).

- TASK**
- Confirm reason for visit (chest X-ray: screening for tuberculosis). Find out how patient is feeling (e.g., any chest pain, breathing difficulties, etc.).
  - Explore patient's anxiety about X-ray (previous experience, radiation, etc.).
  - Reassure patient about effect of X-ray on pacemaker function (e.g., no effect, radiation used for X-rays/not electromagnetic waves, no need for concern, etc.). Emphasise importance of advising medical professionals about pacemaker (e.g., possible need to avoid some medical tests/treatment, etc.). Find out any other questions/concerns.
  - Reassure patient about radiation exposure during X-ray (e.g., minimal level, etc.). Suggest keeping track of X-rays for future reference (e.g., personal medical diary, total number of X-rays, etc.).
  - Explain patient positioning for X-ray (e.g., standing, chin up, hands on hips with palms up, elbows out, shoulders forward, deep breath, keeping still, etc.). Emphasise importance of holding deep breath when instructed (e.g., clear image, less need for repeat X-rays, etc.). Find out about patient preparation for X-ray (e.g., if patient has removed jewellery in chest area, etc.).