**Advice to Patients with an EndoStim Implant**

**Outside the United States**

1. **Follow-up Visits.** EndoStim closed for financial reasons, not because of any safety concerns. If your reflux is controlled with your EndoStim implant, then no interventions or checks are necessary except the periodic check to make sure the device is functioning properly as instructed by your EndoStim physician. If you have recurrent reflux that requires consideration of another therapy, it would be appropriate to visit your EndoStim physician. If you cannot reach your EndoStim physician, please contact EndoStimtechnical@gmail.com to be referred to a center still treating EndoStim patients.
2. **Battery Life and Replacements.** The expected battery life of the device is approximately 6.5 years. It is possible that the battery may stop working but the symptoms remain well controlled for some period. This is because in some patients the sphincter may have been retrained by the neuromodulation and also the distensibility of the lower oesophagus may be somewhat limited by the fibrotic tissue resulting from the implant procedure.

At the end of the battery life of the device, there will not be an option for replacement unless EndoStim is purchased out of bankruptcy or another manufacturer offers a similar device. If device replacements become available, it will be posted on [www.endostim.com](http://www.endostim.com) .
3. **Explanting the device.** Both the stimulator and lead wire or just the stimulator may be removed. Removal of the stimulator alone (a local anaesthetic procedure) is the least invasive intervention. The additional option of removing the electrode, is just that – an option where the pros and cons should be considered. The main advantage of leaving the electrode alone is that this avoids any risk of surgical intervention, or risk of the general anaesthetic. The primary disadvantage is that your access to MRI will be limited to the certain types of MRI equipment. You should discuss these options with your physician.
4. **MRI compatibility**. This is addressed in the Patient Manual on the [www.endostim.com](http://www.endostim.com) website. It is important that you visit your EndoStim physician to check that the lead is not broken and to turn the device off before your MRI procedure.
5. **Patient Manuals and Patient ID Cards.** These provide much more information and are posted in multiple languages on [www.endostim.com](http://www.endostim.com) . Remember to bring your patient ID card for going through security when traveling.