

**GUIDANT CORP. IMPLANTABLE DEFIBRILLATORS PRODUCTS LIABILITY
LITIGATION, MDL NO. 1708**

This multidistrict litigation consolidates for pre-trial purposes all federal litigation alleging that various implantable defibrillator and pacemaker devices manufactured by Guidant Corporation were defective and have caused injury or threaten to cause injury to the plaintiffs and members of the class, and related cases. Most of these actions, which include individual and class actions, were transferred to this Court from around the country by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation (“JPML”). The JPML determined that these lawsuits involve common questions of fact and that pretrial coordination and consolidation of these actions in the United States District Court for the District of Minnesota will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and otherwise promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation. Multidistrict litigation is a procedure utilized in the federal court system to transfer to one federal judge all pending civil cases of a similar type filed throughout the United States. The decision whether cases should be transferred is made by a panel of seven federal judges appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Specifically, this multidistrict litigation concerns alleged defects in the following Guidant medical devices:

DEFIBRILLATORS:

| Device Family | Models |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Contak Renewal | H135 |
| Contak Renewal 2 | H155 CRT |
| Contak Renewal 3 | H170, H173 or H175 |
| Contak Renewal 3 AVT | M150 or M155 |
| Contak Renewal 3 AVT HE | M157 or M159 |
| Contak Renewal 3 HE | H177 or H179 |
| Contak Renewal 4 | H190 or H195 |
| Contak Renewal 4 AVT | M170 or M175 |
| Contak Renewal 4 AVT HE | M177 or M179 |
| Contak Renewal 4 HE | H197 or H199 |
| Ventak Prizm 2DR | Model 1861 |
| Ventak Prizm AVT | 1900 |
| Vitality AVT | A135, A155 |
| Contak Renewal RF | H230 or H235 |
| Contak Renewal RF HE | H239 |

PACEMAKERS:

| Device Family | Models |
|-----------------------|--|
| Contak TR Model 1241 | |
| Discovery | 1174, 1175, 1273, 1274 or 1275 |
| Discovery II | 0481, 0981, 1184, 1186, 1187, 1283, 1284, 1285 or 1286 |
| Insignia AVT DDD | 982 |
| Insignia AVT DR | 1292 |
| Insignia AVT SR | 1192 |
| Insignia AVT SSI | 482 |
| Insignia AVT VDD | 882 |
| Insignia Entra DR | 1294, 1295 or 1296 |
| Insignia Entra SR | 1195 or 1198 |
| Insignia Entra SR DDD | 0985 or 0986 |
| Insignia Entra SSI | 0484 or 0485 |
| Insignia Plus DR | 1297 or 1298 |
| Insignia Plus SR | 1194 |
| Insignia Ultra DR | 1290 or 1291 |
| Insignia Ultra SR | 1190 |
| Intellis II | 1349, 1384, 1385, 1483, 1484, 1485 or 1499 |
| Meridian | 0476, 0976, 1176 or 1276 |
| Nexus AVT DDD | 1432 |
| Nexus AVT DR | 1492 |
| Nexus AVT SR | 1392 |
| Nexus AVT SSI | 1328 |
| Nexus AVT VDD | 1428 |
| Nexus Entra DDD | 1425 or 1426 |
| Nexus Entra DR | 1466, 1494 or 1495 |
| Nexus Entra SR | 1395 or 1398 |
| Nexus Entra SSI | 1325 or 1326 |
| Nexus Plus DR | 1467 or 1468 |
| Nexus Plus SR | 1394 |
| Nexus Ultra DR | 1490 or 1491 |
| Nexus Ultra SR | 1390 |
| Pulsar | 0470, 0870, 0970, 0972, 1172 or 1272 |
| Pulsar Max | 1170, 1171 or 1270 |
| Pulsar Max II | 1180, 1181 or 1280 |
| Virtus Plus II | 1380 or 1480 |

The parties are currently involved in pre-trial discovery. The Court has set a schedule which provides for the filing of any early dispositive motions by defendants by April 1, 2006 and which will permit the trial of approximately five bellwether trials. These cases are to be trial-ready by March 15, 2007. These cases will inform the parties and the Court as to the important issues to be resolved in the litigation. Toward that end, the Court has directed that discovery concerning these representative trials be concluded by October 1, 2006 and

dispositive motions concerning the representative trials be filed by December 1, 2006.

If you would like more information on the nature of the claims asserted in, or status, of this litigation, you may contact any of the Court appointed lead counsel:

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