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Abbott launches smartphone compatible insertable cardiac monitor in USA

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Physicians can remotely monitor their patients with confirm rx for even the most difficult to detect cardiac arrhythmias, including irregular heartbeats



USFDA has cleared Abbott's Confirm Rx Insertable Cardiac Monitor (ICM) which is the world's first and only smartphone compatible ICM designed to help physicians remotely identify cardiac arrhythmias.

Abbott can now provide U.S. patients a new way to monitor for abnormal heart rhythms while staying connected to their physician remotely and being able to engage in their health care.

An arrhythmia is an abnormal heart rhythm that develops when disease or injury disrupts the heart's electrical signals, causing the heart to beat erratically. As the heart begins to beat too fast or too slow, changes in blood flow can expose patients to symptoms such as palpitations, dizziness, shortness of breath or fainting.

Avi Fischer, M.D., divisional vice president and medical director of Abbott's Cardiac Rhythm Management business said, "Confirm Rx shows what we can do with cutting edge communication technology and the most advanced medical devices that provide new opportunities to improve patient care. By offering a device that uses Bluetooth® wireless technology from the patient's smartphone, we can help physicians easily and remotely diagnose potentially dangerous abnormal heart beats without requiring the patient to use a separate or cumbersome recording device."

By incorporating Bluetooth wireless technology, Abbott has advanced remote monitoring by allowing patients to connect their ICM to their smartphone via the myMerlin mobile app. Once implanted just under the skin in the chest during a quick, minimally-invasive outpatient procedure—Confirm Rx continuously monitors heart rhythms to detect a range of cardiac arrhythmias, including irregular heartbeats, or atrial fibrillation.

Data collected by the device is then securely transmitted to a patient's physician via the mobile app on a schedule set by the clinic. The app also allows patients to record symptomatic events from their own smartphone without the need for additional hardware such as handheld activators or bedside transmitters.

While the Confirm Rx ICM continuously monitors for abnormal heart rhythms and transmits data to a patient's physician, the myMerlin app also allows patients to track symptoms proactively, sync their data with their clinic at any time, and view their transmission history without having to contact their clinic to confirm successful data transfers.