Effects of Microwave Ovens on St. Jude Medical Implantable Cardiac Rhythm Devices

Background
A microwave oven is a kitchen appliance that heats food by dielectric heating. This is accomplished by using microwave radiation to heat polarized molecules within the food.

Potential Effects
Both the microwave and pacemaker/implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) industries have made numerous technology advances, one of which is in the area of shielding. Manufacturers of microwave ovens in recent years have improved their shielding such that any electrical leakage is minimal and should not affect an implanted pacemaker. The use of a microwave oven which meets Federal safety standards for leakage should not interfere with a St. Jude Medical pacemaker or ICD.

St. Jude Medical does not have control over the type, age, or condition of a particular microwave oven. However, as long as the microwave oven is in proper working order, we do not anticipate any interference with the pacemaker or ICD.

If you have any questions on this topic, please contact St. Jude Medical Technical Services at 800-722-3774.