

*Please note the interview topic guide is a living document. The design is iterative to tailor the interview to the needs of the participant, and the issues that they feel are most important. As analysis occurs concurrently the topic guide is likely to be adapted over time - questions might be added, amended or omitted – and used flexibly. Also, this is a generic guide for all clinicians; the topics discussed will be adapted for each of the different clinician groups (e.g. cardiology compared with palliative care team).*

## **Plan of interview**

1. Introduction
2. The referral pathway
3. Living with an ICD
4. Implantation decisions - current practice
5. Improving decision making about implantation
6. Deactivation decisions – current practice
7. Improving decision making about deactivation
8. Feedback

### **1. Introduction**

- Thank you for agreeing to take part in this interview. As you know, we are interviewing clinicians about their views and experiences of decision making about ICD implantation and deactivation. We are interested in understanding the types of information and support patients (and clinicians) need when making decisions about ICD therapy.
- With your permission I would like to record the interview; all details will be confidential.
- Do you have any questions or concerns?
- *Obtain written consent.*

### **2. The care pathway**

- Please can you describe your job?
- Can you describe how you come into contact with people eligible for an ICD?

- Are you involved in information sharing prior to implantation?
- How do you describe an ICD?
- How do you think patients grasp the idea?
- What types of issues do patients want to talk about?
- From your perspective, what works well in the current pathway (what works not so well)?

### **3. Living with an ICD**

- What are the issues that seem to be important to patients?
- Are there any common misunderstandings about the function of the ICD?
- After a patient experiences a shock at home what happens?
- How does the experience of shock affect patients?
- How are people who experience psychosocial sequelae supported?
- Which information sources do you signpost patients to?
- Do you feel we might rely too much on leaflets?

### **4. Improving decision making about implantation**

- Thinking back to what happens before people get a device, how might patients and clinicians be better supported to make decisions about ICD implantation?
- What role do patients want to play in decision making?
- What role do partners tend to adopt?
- What resources/tools/training are needed?
- Do you feel that there is a need for additional tools or training (e.g. decision aids)?
- What are the main facilitators and barriers to meaningful discussions about ICD implantation?

### **5. Deactivation decisions – current practice**

- Please can you tell me about an example where deactivation in advance has gone well? (who was involved, what happened, why did it go well)?

- Please can you tell me about an example where deactivation didn't go so well (what happened, how could this have been avoided)?
- How common are conversations about device deactivation in advance (who is involved)?

## **6. Improving decision making about deactivation**

- At what time point do you think that the topic of deactivation should be discussed?
- Why do you think that the issue of deactivation is rarely approached in advance?
- In your view, who should be involved and how should the issue be approached?
- How are these conversations different to others at the end of life?
- What are the facilitators and barriers to timely discussion about device deactivation?
- What type of support for patients/family is required?
- How can clinicians be better supported to have these conversations (resources/tools/training)?

## **7. Feedback**

- *Thank you for your time.*
- *What made you take part in this interview?*
- *Are we asking the right questions?*
- *Do these questions allow you to talk about the most important issues for you?*
- *Is there anything else you think it would be useful for us to know?*