

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 care pathway
3. Information and decision support
4. Living with an ICD
5. Deactivation decisions – current practice
6. Improving decision making about deactivation
7. 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 role?
- Can you describe how you come into contact with people eligible for an ICD?
- When do you first see ICD patients? Are you involved in information sharing prior to implantation?

- How do you describe an ICD?
- How do you think patients grasp the idea?
- Are there any misunderstandings about the function of the ICD?
- How do patients understand the benefits of an ICD?
- How do patients understand the risk of an ICD?
- 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. Information and Decision Support

- Which information sources do you signpost patients to?
- Do you feel the information that is available is appropriate/sufficient/useful?
- What would you rather see was available to support patients in decision making about ICDs?
- What factors do you think need to be considered when making a decision to have an ICD fitted?
- What are the characteristics of the ideal model of decision making about ICD implantation?

4. Living with an ICD

- Living with the device, what are the issues that seem to be important to patients?
- From your experiences, how does living with an ICD impact on patients' quality of life?
- Please tell me about any memorable experiences where an ICD has had a positive impact on a patient's mental health and wellbeing? Likewise for negative impacts?
- From your experiences, how does the experience of shock/device discharge affect patients? (avoidance behaviours/anxiety/depression)
- How are people who experience psychological sequelae supported?
- In your experience, how are family members/carers affected (what is the range of responses)?

5. Deactivation decisions – current practice

- Are you involved in supporting decision making about deactivating a device?
- Can you tell me about any memorable experiences involving device deactivation?
- 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 and at what stage)?

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?*