

*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. Deactivation decisions – current practice
3. Improving decision making about deactivation
4. 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. Deactivation decisions – current practice**

- Can you say a little about your role and how you come into contact with patient with ICDs?
- Can you tell me about a time when you were involved in the care of a patient who needed an ICD deactivated?

- I am interested in your stories/examples from yours or your colleagues experience. Can you tell me about other particularly memorable experiences of ICD patients in your care?
- Thinking about those examples, what went well?
- What didn't go so well?
- How do you approach the topic of deactivation?
- Can you please talk me through how you would have that conversation?
- Do patients tend to be familiar with the concept of deactivation?
- How is deactivation understood by patients?
- Is anyone else involved in these conversations?
- How are these conversations different to others at the end of life?
- Are there any aspects of ICD therapy that make conversations about end of life more difficult?

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

- Why do you think that the issue of deactivation is rarely approached in advance by cardiologists?
- At what time point do you think that the topic of deactivation should be discussed?
- In an ideal scenario when and how should device deactivation be discussed?
- What are the components of good practice regarding ICDs towards end of life?
- When would be the most appropriate time to begin advance care planning?
- In your view, who should be involved?
- What are the facilitators and barriers to timely discussion about device deactivation?
- Do you think the legalities are well understood? (misconceived as euthanasia/physician assisted suicide)
- What type of support for patients/family is required?
- How can clinicians be better supported to have these conversations? (e.g. resources/tools/training)

#### 4. **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?*