

Dear [],

I am a local site investigator for a research study led by Newcastle University and funded by the National Institute of Health Research. The research is seeking to improve the information and support people receive when living with an implantable cardiac defibrillator (ICD) and approaching end of life. The research is aiming to produce information to better support conversations about turning off an ICD, in order to reduce pain and distress for both the patient and their family towards the end of life.

We are contacting you because we would like to speak with people who have lost a loved one, who had an ICD fitted, to discuss experiences and explore your views about what worked well and what worked not so well with the ICD towards end of life. Please be assured that the research team do not have access to any of your loved one's clinical data. I enclose a letter about the research and a copy of the participant information sheet, which I would be grateful if you would read.

If you have any questions about the study please contact either Holly Standing (the researcher on the study, details on accompanying letter) or myself, using the contact details below. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. You can change your mind at any time and without giving a reason.

I apologise if this enquiry has caused undue upset. I do appreciate you taking the time to consider participating in this study which seeks to improve the experience of ICD patients, and their family, towards end of life.

Yours sincerely,