

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.

Plan of interview

1. Introduction

- Thank you agreeing to take part in this interview. As you know, we are interviewing people about their decisions around whether to have an ICD implanted or not. We are interested in understanding the types of information and support people need when making a decision about having an ICD.
- With your permission I would like to record the interview; all details will be confidential. I am not a clinician so if there are any questions about your device it would be helpful to hear them to understand what you would like more information about but they would be best answered by your doctor or physiologist.
- Taking part in the study won't affect your care. There are no right or wrong answers and if you feel uncomfortable about any question we can move on to another topic or stop the interview.
- Do you have any questions or concerns?
- *Obtain written consent.*

2. Referral for an ICD

- Please would you tell me about the events leading up to your referral for an ICD?
- What did the doctors tell you about why you needed an ICD?
- How did you feel when you were told about your condition?
- How did you feel about the ICD?
- What is your understanding about the device (what does the device do, what doesn't the device do?)

3. Information Sources

- Can you tell me about any materials you received from your doctor? Written materials or websites?
- Did you or someone you know get information about ICDs from the internet or another source?
- Have you talked with someone who already has an ICD?
- Have you talked with your cardiologist about the benefits of getting an ICD?
- Have you talked with your cardiologist about possible risks (surgical complications, experience of shock, risk of depression/anxiety)?
- Did you talk about the impact on quality of life (daily living, body image)?
- Do you feel well informed about the ICD (did you have all of the information you needed/wanted)?
- Is there anything that wasn't discussed with your cardiologist that you would have liked information about?

4. Living and Ageing with the device

- Did you talk about consequences of getting an ICD (living with the device as you get older, battery changes etc)?
- Did you talk about what will happen to your device as you get older? [have you discussed what might happen over your lifespan or if your condition changes?]
- Is there any situation in which you would consider turning the device off? What would those circumstances be?

5. Making the decision

- Were you able to discuss with your doctor the issues that were most important to you about the ICD?
- Who did you discuss your options with besides your cardiologist (friends, family, others)?
- What were their thoughts and feelings about the device?
- To what degree were your family/friends involved in the decision-making process?
- What is the most important factor that influenced your decision? Probes: "Some people have told us that they wish to [follow doctor's advice/are acting on advice or wishes of family members/wish to prolong life, etc.]

- Have you got any outstanding worries or concerns about the device?
- To what extent did you feel involved in the decision making process?

6. 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?*