

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 your heart condition?
- How did you feel when you were told about your condition?
- What did the doctor/nurse tell you about why you needed an ICD?
- How did you feel about the idea of having an ICD?

3. Information needs

- What did your doctor or nurse tell you about ICDs?
- What is your understanding about the device (what does the device do, what doesn't the device do)?
- 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 clinician about the benefits of getting an ICD?
- Have you talked with your clinician 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 about ICDs or your condition that you would like more information about at this point?
- Do you have any concerns or worries about the device?

4. Making the decision

- Who have you discussed your options with besides your clinician (friends, family, others)?
- Who was involved in helping you make your decision to think further about having an ICD?
- Were you able to discuss with your clinician the issues that were most important to you about the ICD?
- What is the most important factor that is likely to influence your decision about whether or not to have an ICD? 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.]

5. Living and ageing with an ICD

- Is there any situation in which you would consider turning the device off? What would those circumstances be?

- Did you talk about consequences of getting an ICD (living with the device as you get older, battery changes etc)?
- What are you hoping for if you do decide to have an ICD fitted?
- Do you expect life to be different?

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?*