

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
2. Your relative's experience living with an ICD
3. End of life experiences
4. Discussions in advance
5. Improving conversations about deactivation
6. Feedback

3. Introduction

- Thank you agreeing to take part in this interview. As you know, we are interviewing family members to understand their views and experiences in relation to stopping ICD therapy for a loved one. We are interested in understanding the types of information and support ICD patients and their families need.
- 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.
- 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.*

4. Your relative's experience living with an ICD

- Please can you tell me a little bit about your loved ones experience of having an ICD?

- What was yours and your loved ones understanding of the device?
- Did your loved one experience a shock from their device at any point?
- What did your loved one think about their device (did they value having it, how did it impact on their quality of life?)

5. End of life experiences

- Can you tell me what happened at the end of your loved one's life?
- Did your loved one experience shocks towards the end of life?

6. Discussions in advance

- Did you have a discussion in advance about turning off the ICD?
- Who did you discuss turning off the device with?
- At what stage did you have this conversation?
- How was this explained to you?
- Did you receive any other information about this process and what it means?

7. Improving conversations about deactivation

- From your experiences what aspects worked well?
- What aspects could have been done better?
- In your view at what stage should the possibility of turning the device off be discussed (offer different scenarios e.g. pre-implant as a hypothetical scenario or towards end of life as condition is deteriorating)
- Do you have any ideas for how we might improve information giving about device deactivation?
- Who do you think should be involved in these conversations?

8. Feedback

- Thank you for your time.
- What made you take part in this interview?
- Are we asking the right questions?
- Are these the most important issues for you?

- Are there any other issues you would like to discuss to help me to better understand yours and your relative's experiences?