

*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. Referral for an ICD
3. Information sources
4. Making the decision
5. Doctor's role in decision making
6. Improving information giving
7. Feedback

### **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. We are especially interested in understanding why people decline an ICD and how they came to that decision with their doctor.
- 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?  
Were you offered your device after an acute event or as a preventive measure?
- What did the doctors tell you about why you needed an ICD?
- How did you feel when you were told you were eligible for an ICD?
- What is your understanding about your ICD (what does the device do, what doesn't the device do?)

## 3. Information Sources

- What materials have you received from your doctor? Written materials or websites?
- Did you access other sources of information? If so what? How useful was this?
- Have you talked with someone who already has an ICD?

## 4. Making the decision

- Who did you discuss your options with besides your cardiologist (friends, family, others)?
- Can you tell me what your cardiologist told you about the benefits of getting an ICD?
- Can you tell me what your cardiologist told you about the risks and consequences of getting an ICD (probes: possible surgical complications, battery changes, impact on quality of life)?
- Did your doctor ask you about what was most important to you when thinking about getting a device?
- Did you talk about what happens with the device as you get older?
- What were your expectations about life with the ICD?
- To what degree were your family/friends involved in the decision-making process? What concerns about the ICD did they have?
- What were the main factors that influenced your decision?
  
- Were there any other issues that were important to you that we haven't covered?

## **5. Doctor's role in decision making**

- How would the role your doctor played in helping you to make your decision about the ICD?
- Do you think the doctor had an opinion about what decision you should make or not? Can you tell me about that?

## **6. Improving information giving**

- Is there any type of information you think would have made making your decision easier?
- Looking back at your decision now, have you had any other thoughts about it?
- Is there anything else you would have liked to discuss with your doctor?
- If you could tell patients who are considering getting an ICD anything about making the decision, what would you tell them?

## **7. 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?