

*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. Living with an ICD
6. The Future
7. Improving information giving
8. 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.
- 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. Background info

- Please would you tell me about the events leading up to your referral for an ICD? (establish/confirm diagnosis)
- Were you offered your device after an acute event or as a preventive measure?

## 3. Making the decision

- Can you recall what you were told about the pros and cons of having an ICD when you were making the decision to have one fitted?
- What was 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.]

## 4. Experience of shocks

- When did you first experience a shock from your device (was it (in)appropriate)?
- Can you tell me about your experience and how it affected you?
- Do you feel that you could have received more information about ICD shocks pre-implant that could have helped you to cope?
- Has the experience of your device discharging affected your day to day life?
- Are there any activities that you avoid? Which ones and why?
- Has the experience of device shocks affected your relationships (with partners, family)?
- How do you feel about your device now?

## 5. Life with an ICD

- What is it like to live with an ICD, what is working well? What’s not working as well?
- Was anything different to how you expected? Has anything surprised you?
- What do you like/value about the device?
- What do you dislike about the ICD?
- Have you had any other complications related to the device (probe: infections, lead fracture)?

## 6. The Future

- Have you talked with your cardiologist or physiologist about what might happen in the future with your device as you get older?
- Is there anything that concerns you?
- Would you ever consider having your device turned off? In what circumstances would you consider this?

## 7. Improving information giving

- Do you have any worries or unanswered questions about your ICD? How do you handle these worries and unanswered questions?
- If you could tell patients who are considering getting an ICD anything about what it's like, what would you tell them? What's most important for them to know in making the decision?
- Is there anything you know now that would have been helpful to know before you made your decision to get the ICD?

## 8. 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?*