



## **Accompanying local procedure document to the national joint deactivation of implantable cardioverter defibrillators towards the end of life guidance 2015**

Aim: to guide local organisations to establish logistical resources to support the use of the national guidance on ICD deactivation.

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## **Establishing local contact details**

Patients who are not in hospital at the time of decision to deactivate will have equal access to deactivation facilities. Ideally the decision to deactivate should take place when a patient has mental capacity.

In the community the decision to deactivate may be made by the team looking after the patient at home/care home. This might be the GP, at the palliative MDT or at the community heart failure MDT. The decision may also be made by the cardiology team during an out patient appointment. Discussions on deactivation may be initiated by district nurses/hospital heart failure nurse. It is best facilitated by community heart failure CNS or community matron (if known to them) in conjunction with the GP. Once the decision is made this needs to be recorded in the patients notes/system and a deactivation form is completed, this should accompany the patient to the ICD clinic at the time of deactivation.

We advise local organisations to fill in the corresponding details below so that it is clear who to contact for support, both in and out of hours.

### **LOCAL HOSPITAL/TRUST DETAILS**

**ICD clinic opening times/contact number/Fax number**

**Consultant Cardiologist via switchboard:**

**Cardiology physiologist:**

**On call cardiology physiologist:**

**On call palliative care team**

## Decision aid for deactivation of ICD

Complete consent for deactivation form and request for deactivation

Patient is able to attend ICD clinic

Patient is unable to attend ICD clinic

Patient is dying with active ICD insitu but no previous arrangements made for deactivation (*this should normally be avoided*)

Planned visit for deactivation in ICD clinic

Planned deactivation at patient's home by clinician trained in deactivation usually cardiac physiologist

Contact ICD clinic to arrange deactivation by clinician trained in deactivation at the patient's home

Patient's death imminent, contact ICD clinic/on call consultant cardiologist/palliative care on call team, who will facilitate loan of donut magnet.

## Consent for Deactivation of Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)

Patient Name:

Hospital/NHS number:

Date of Birth:

Address:

GP Name:

Address:

Telephone:

### PATIENT CONSENT

I understand the reasons for deactivating my ICD and that the decision to deactivate can be reviewed if necessary. I have received the patient information leaflet and had the opportunity to ask questions about this. I agree to the deactivation of my ICD.

**Signature of patient:**

**Date:**

### PROXY CONSENT

I understand the reasons for the deactivating the ICD of the patient named above and that the decision to deactivate can be reviewed if necessary. I agree to the deactivation of the named patient's ICD.

**Signature of next of kin/relative/carer (circle as appropriate):**

**Print name:**

**Date:**

### CLINICAL AUTHORISATION OF deactivation

Date of request:

Reason for request:

**Signature of authorising Consultant/Physician/GP (circle as appropriate):**

**Any other comments:**

**ICD Details** (most patients will have a card/leaflet with this information)

Manufacturer:

Implant hospital:

**Cardiac Physiologist deactivating the device (sign/print):**

**DATE AND TIME DEVICE DEACTIVATED:**

## Request for Deactivation of Implanted Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)

Patient Name:

Hospital/NHS number:

Date of birth:

Address:

**Point of contact for deactivation arrangements:**

Who:

Contact Tel number:

- Patient consent has been given and 'consent for ICD deactivation form' has been signed by patient/proxy (please enclose)
- A record of decision is documented in patient records by Physician in charge if possible and /or consent to deactivate has been signed

### Section A: Patient is near end of life (URGENT)

- a magnet has been obtained from the centre below and taped securely over the patient's ICD as per community SOP for unplanned ICD deactivation
- please can you make arrangements within 72 hours for deactivation of the ICD by a cardiac physiologist using a programmer

### Section B: Decision to deactivate has been made (PLANNED)

- patient **IS** able to attend clinic, please can you make reasonable arrangements for the patient to attend clinic for deactivation of the ICD by a cardiac physiologist using a programmer
- patient **IS NOT** able to attend clinic, please can you make reasonable arrangements for deactivation of the ICD by a cardiac physiologist using a programmer in the patient's home

### Section C: Request for deactivation of ICD after Death

- Please arrange deactivation by a cardiac physiologist using a programmer prior to post mortem and burial or cremation as soon as is practicable **(please state if urgent)**

**Requested by (name/title):**

**Date:**

FAX COMPLETED FORM TO .....

### Safe placement of donut magnet

1. Ensure the patient is aware why you are placing the magnet and verbal consent is given and consent form is signed if possible
2. Ask the patient to feel and point to where the ICD is located (if possible), if not then look for the scar usually located to the left below clavicle. Alternative placement could be on the right or down under the Left arm around 6<sup>th</sup> rib
3. Feel for the ICD which will be a solid lump under the skin
4. Place the magnet over the lump – you may hear a quiet alarm as the magnet disables therapies
5. Secure the magnet in place with micropore/transpore, as pictured below to ensure the magnet does not move

**PLEASE NOTE IF THE MAGNET IS APPLIED FOR OVER 8 HOURS, YOU MUST REMOVE AND REAPPLY**

Please always note the following:

- Donut magnet temporarily stops the ICD delivering shock therapies but **only whilst in position over the ICD**
- Normal function is restored as soon as it is removed  
Applying magnet does NOT cause death, it just stops shocks occurring if the patient has an arrhythmia. This stops the ICD delivering any shock or ATP therapy but does not disable bradycardia pacing delivery
- This is a temporary solution as the ICD will return to normal function as soon as the magnet is removed
- The ICD will still require deactivation by a cardiac physiologist using a programmer as soon as is practicable
- This deactivation method may be considered if a planned ICD deactivation was not arranged and a cardiac physiologist cannot get to a patient in time



**Complete and fax the request for deactivation of ICD form as soon as possible**

**Alternatively contact the local Cardiology Dept Pacing/ICD clinic ASAP**

**On:**

**Name and telephone of local hospital:**

## **Deactivating Your ICD – A Patient’s Guide**

There may come a point in your life when you would prefer not to have a shock to correct a life-threatening heart rhythm. This may be if your heart condition has deteriorated or you have another medical condition which cannot be cured. This leaflet is designed to help you when considering this option.

### **When is deactivating an ICD considered?**

Deactivation may be considered if receiving shocks is unlikely to prolong your life and may cause distress. This may be the case if you have been diagnosed with a terminal condition and are thought to be reaching the end of your life. For some people, their heart condition reaches a stage where it is no longer possible to maintain a good quality of life or to prevent rhythm disturbances that cause frequent shocks. It may be that you feel that dying suddenly from a heart rhythm disturbance is preferable to the prospect of a slow deterioration.

### **Who makes the decision to deactivate the ICD?**

Ideally, this would be you, which is why we aim to raise the issue well before a decision is urgently needed. It is important that you are aware of this option early on so you have time to consider how you feel about deactivation and can play an active part in the decision making process. This ensures that people involved in your care know and understand your wishes. If you have not expressed your wishes and are not able to do so, a discussion will take place between your next of kin and the doctors involved in your care. The decision, made in your best interests, may then be made to deactivate your ICD.

### **How is the ICD deactivated?**

The process is carried out by a trained clinician usually a cardiac physiologist and is similar to when you have an ICD check. A programming device is placed over your ICD and the settings are altered on a computer. The ICD can be deactivated so it will no longer deliver a shock but the pacing function is left unchanged. In an emergency when there is no time to deactivate the ICD as above this can be done temporarily by fixing a magnet over the device box. As above this does not affect pacing function of your ICD only shock therapies.

### **What happens when it is deactivated?**

You will not feel any different. Deactivating the ICD does not cause your immediate or sudden death nor will it cause any pain or deterioration in your condition. Next time you have an abnormal heart rhythm, the ICD will not shock your heart out of this rhythm.

### **What if I change my mind?**

Once it is deactivated, should you change your mind, it can be reactivated at any time.

**Who can I talk to for further advice?**

The choice to deactivate your ICD is primarily yours and there are people to advise and support you with your decision. If you would like to discuss this possibility, please talk to your heart failure CNS/ICD clinic on ..... or you can discuss with your GP/palliative care team.