

Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator (ICD) Deactivation -Summary Clinical Guideline

Reference No: CG-CLIN/4235/23

An ICD is an 'implantable cardioverter defibrillator', a device used to treat people with dangerously abnormal heart rhythms (British Heart Foundation, 2019). The ICD will send electrical pulses to the heart to regulate any abnormal rhythm.

Deactivation of an ICD means to turn off the shock function. The decision is usually made between the patient and medical team; however, the decision can be made to deactivate the ICD urgently by the doctor to help maintain the patient's dignity and comfort. The decision can also be made with the patient's next of kin if the patient is not able to make this decision themselves.

Pacemakers, including biventricular pacemakers without a defibrillator function, do not need deactivating. Should advice be needed on the type of device implanted, please use the following forms of contact.

At **RDH**, please call extension **89011** during the hours of 08:30 - 16:30, Monday to Friday. It is also possible to use the **'e-case notes'** under **cardio non-invasive results**.

At Burton, please call extension 4216 or 5341, or check the reports on Meditech.



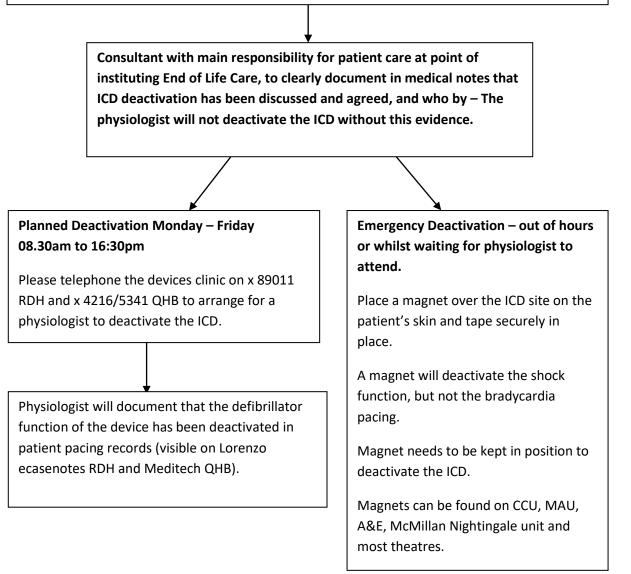
Patient with ICD approaches end of life.

Decision to institute End of Life Care

Discuss device deactivation as early as possible with the patient.

Discussion can be led by any healthcare professional with main responsibility for care at point of instituting End of Life Care.

Consider discussion with on-call cardiologist/cardiology registrar.



More information can be found at

ICD deactivation at the end life: Principles and practice - BHF - appendix A



References

British Heart Foundation (2019). *Pacemakers*. [online] Bhf.org.uk. Available at: https://www.bhf.org.uk/informationsupport/treatments/pacemakers.

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