

Deactivating your Transvenous Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (T-ICD) (page 1 of 2)



What is an ICD?

An ICD is an implantable device, which constantly monitors the heart rate and rhythm. It is designed to deliver a shock to the heart if an abnormal, life-threatening rhythm is detected. Some ICDs can also function as a pacemaker and pace the heart if it beats too slowly.

Cardiac Resynchronisation Therapy Defibrillator (CRT-D) paces both the lower chambers of the heart to synchronise the heart's contractions and reduce the symptoms associated with heart failure. The pacing function of the ICD can be programmed independently, and programming changes can be done during an ICD check.

What is ICD deactivation?

Deactivation involves switching it off, so it is no longer able to deliver shock therapy to restore a normal heart rhythm. Deactivation does not disable any pacemaker or resynchronisation function that the ICD may have.

Why would an ICD be deactivated?

There may come a time when you no longer wish to receive treatment from the ICD. This may be because your health has deteriorated and you wish to focus on care that makes you comfortable rather than on treatment to prolong your life. If you are nearing the end of your life, a shock from your ICD may be distressing to both you and your family.

How is the ICD deactivated?

A cardiac physiologist will deactivate the ICD. They will place a programmer over the ICD site, which is painless and similar to when you have an ICD check. It does not take long, and you will not feel any different after it has been done.

This is reversible. If you change your mind, or your health improves, the ICD function can be switched back on to provide treatment again.

If you need your information in another language or medium (audio, large print, etc) please contact Customer Care on 0800 374 208 or send an email to: customer care@salisbury.nhs.uk

You are entitled to a copy of any letter we write about you. Please ask if you want one when you come to the hospital.

Please complete The Friends & Family Test to tell us about your experience at: www.salisbury.nhs.uk/FriendsFamily or download our App from the Apple App store or Google Play Store.

The evidence used in the preparation of this leaflet is available on request. Please email: patient.information@salisbury.nhs.uk if you would like a reference list.

Name: Becky Hyland
Role: Heart Failure Nurse Specialist
Date written: June 2018
Review date: July 2021
Version: 1.0
Code: PI1500

Cardiac Specialist Nurses
01722 336262 ext 5405

Deactivating your Transvenous Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (T-ICD) (2 of 2)



Who will make the decision to deactivate the ICD?

The decision to deactivate your ICD will usually be made by you, and the team involved in your care will support any decision you do make. It is important that you consider this carefully and discuss your wishes while you are able to make these choices. This will ensure your family and those involved in your care know and understand your wishes.

If your health deteriorates, preventing you being able to make decisions about your care, the medical team will have to make this decision for you after consultation with your next of kin. Any decision made will be in your best interest.

Where will the ICD be deactivated?

The ICD can be deactivated in the ICD clinic, on the ward, or at your home if you are unable to attend the hospital.

If you would like to discuss ICD deactivation or require more information regarding ICDs in general, please contact the Cardiac Specialist Nurses or the Cardiac Investigation Unit at Salisbury Hospital.

Cardiac Specialist Nurses 01722 336262 extension 5405

Cardiac Investigation Unit 01722 336262 extension 4258