

Process map for deactivation of tachycardia therapies in an Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators (ICD) in people who are nearing the end of their life

It is recognised that the patient with an ICD is approaching the end of their life and the need for deactivation of the tachycardia therapies is identified.

Prior to giving authorisation for a planned or an emergency deactivation the senior doctor of the End of Life Care Team (if not the Consultant Cardiologist) **must** discuss the patient case with a Consultant Cardiologist i.e. the Primary Consultant Cardiologist who knows the patient or the Consultant Cardiologist of the week or the Consultant Cardiologist on call (contact through hospital switchboard 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). Such discussions must be documented and should occur when any of the following have taken place:

- After a DNACPR plan has been placed on the patient.
- When the patient's condition is worsening and deactivation may be appropriate.
- After referral to the Specialist Palliative Care Team for end of life care.
- Prior to transfer of a patient to their own home, a Care Home or Hospice for end of life care.

Decision to deactivate the tachycardia therapies of the ICD is agreed between the senior doctor of the End of Life Care Team and the Consultant Cardiologist. The patient and those important to them have received all the information required to enable them to participate in the decision-making process. The patient has consented to the deactivation.

The most senior doctor available from the End of Life Care Team managing the patient must complete the appropriate form '*Request for Deactivation of Implantable Cardiac Defibrillator Tachy-arrhythmic Therapies in people nearing end of life*'. Two separate request forms are available – one for planned deactivation and one for an emergency deactivation. Form found on the SHSCT intranet under Clinical Guidelines and Cardiology.

Planned deactivation using a programmer

Hospital **or** Community (Home/Hospice/Care Home)

Monday – Friday (excluding Public Holidays)
09:00 – 17:00hrs

Contact the Cardiac Physiologist to arrange a suitable time for the ICD deactivation.
Tel No. 028 375 66799, Bleep 1272.

Cardiac Physiologist will attend the patient in hospital/community. A health care professional involved in the patient's care should also attend to provide support to patient/family.

Emergency deactivation

Hospital **or** Community (Home/Hospice/Care Home)

During out of hours, weekends or Public Holidays or when planned deactivation not possible.

For emergency **ICD** community deactivation, regardless of location and where adequate planning has not occurred, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust cardiac investigations team should be contacted for further advice. **All emergency end of life community deactivations are carried out by the Belfast Health & Social Trust within 48 hours.*

RVH device clinic: 02890 633179

BCH device clinic: 02895 040403

Out of hours CCU RVH: 02890 633229

After Patient Dies

Inform mortician / funeral home that the patient has an ICD

Cremation / Post mortem – Device will require deactivation by a Cardiac Physiologist using programmer if not already complete

Burial – No further action required