

APPENDIX 4: Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator Deactivation Process

- If the patient is mobile, contact their ICD implant centre, or if not known then the local hospital pacing clinic, to make a timely appointment for deactivation.
- If the patient is immobile contact their ICD implant centre, or if not known then the local hospital pacing clinic, to discuss arrangements for a cardiac physiologist to visit and carry out the deactivation procedure. This is a simple non-invasive procedure and takes only a few minutes.
- For those patients where a visit cannot be arranged a magnet can be obtained from the local coronary care centre to be placed over the device if inappropriate shocks occur. For all emergencies out of hours, the ***on-call medical registrar at the local acute hospital*** should be contacted for advice/ discussion regarding emergency transfer of the patient or delivery of a magnet pack.
- Guidelines on the emergency use of a magnet to temporarily deactivate the ICD in a community care setting are given below
[Note: all localities should have a magnet and staff should know where it is kept]

Guidelines for the emergency use of a magnet to temporarily deactivate an ICU in primary care settings including in-patient community wards.

A magnet temporarily stops the ICD delivering shock therapy. It is only active whilst in position over the ICD and normal function is restored as soon as it is removed.

If a patient who is imminently dying still has an active ICD:

1. Obtain a magnet from your nearest ICD follow up centre (these are stocked within EPUT – contact local site as indicated on intranet)
2. Place the magnet directly onto the patient's skin over the bump of the ICD (usually on the left side of the chest just below the clavicle / collar bone).
3. Tape the magnet in place with some appropriate strapping/tape.
4. Do not remove the ICD – it is only effective whilst in position.
5. Applying a magnet does NOT cause death; it just stops shocks occurring if the patient has an arrhythmia.

6. The magnet stops the ICD delivering shock or anti-tachycardia therapy; it does NOT stop bradycardia pacing therapy.
7. The magnet is safe for all staff to use. It does not affect staff or relatives who may have an active pacemaker.
8. It is safe to touch a patient whilst the ICD is delivering shocks – no shock will be transmitted to the person touching the patient you would just feel a twitch.

After Death

Do not remove the magnet after death.

The ICD will still need to be switched off permanently but make sure that you contact the ICD centre and let them know where the body will be. Inform the funeral director or mortician of the ICD status.