ICD deactivation at home: what our data shows
Myths, tips & opening the flood gates?

Wendy Churchouse on behalf of ICD team
ABMU Trust, Swansea
wendy.churchouse@wales.nhs.uk
Why offer community ICD deactivation?

• End of life care should focus on a natural, peaceful death

• ICD shocks at end stage of life are futile & distressing for patients / relatives

• ICD service should provide package of care (pre implant care to end of life care)

• End of life preference of care; most patients wish to die at home rather than hospital

1 chance to get it right!
ICD deactivation – The Myths ........

- Patients & relatives do not wish to talk about ICD deactivation
- ICD deactivation equates to immediate death
- ICD deactivation is not reversible – it's a final decision
- HCPs are confident about discussing ICD deactivation
- HCPs are knowledgeable & confident in dealing with ICD deactivation

ALL ARE MYTHS.....

The facts...

- Patients & relatives **DO** wish to talk about ICD deactivation

- ICD deactivation is **NOT** equated to immediate death but you must plan ahead

- ICD deactivation **IS** reversible

- Most HCPs **ARE** more confident about discussing ICD deactivation

- Most HCPs **ARE** knowledgeable & confident in dealing with ICD deactivation

All-Wales ICD deactivation guidance 2011 – 2018
All-Wales ICD deactivation guidance

- Clarifies WHY ICD deactivation is IMPORTANT
- Importance of forward planning
- Sensitive discussions with patient, family / significant others
- Highlights deactivation is reversible
- Explains temporary deactivation with an external magnet
- After death care
- Disposal of ICD after death
- Inter professional communication
- Documentation & audit

ALL simplified to a 4 step plan via the education DVD
Our practice

- 1997 - ICD deactivation part of pre ICD counseling

- 2011 – ICD deactivation discussed @ pre implant & 1st ICD check up

- 2012 – Patient ICD website explains ICD deactivation

- 2012 – Introduced to patient support groups

- 2014 – Resuscitation Council patient ICD deactivation leaflet added to pre-implant information pack
Has our efforts impacted on care?
ABMU ICD Deactivation trends 2011-2014

- Ante mortem
- Post mortem
- Total deact

All-Wales guidelines & DVD
ABMU ICD deactivation trends 2011-2017
Community ICD deactivation – Opening the flood gates?
Community ICD deactivation 2011-2017

10% of deactivations provided in the Community
Practical tips for community deactivation

Temporary ICD deactivation..

• Use of magnet

• “7 hour rule” to avoid re-activation

• Vibration / bleeping tone if magnet loses skin contact

• Reassure everyone
Practical tips for community deactivation

Be Prepared……..

• Confirm correct programmer

• Paper for programmer & spare

• Pack electric extension lead

• Pack deactivation request form

• Confirm correct address for place of deactivation

• Confirm departure & approximate arrival time with patient

• Get approx directions – SATNAV & mobiles useless in rural areas !!!!!
Practical tips for community deactivation

Empathy & experience ...........

- Use experienced staff in order to deal with “whatever”......

- Introduce yourself

- Confirm their understanding & explain deactivation

- Option to re-activate if patient improves / changes their mind

- Reassure – take your time

- Deactivate - remember to deactivate alarms
Practical tips for community deactivation

Communication & document ........

• Document / confirm deactivation with key HCPs – GP, OOH team, palliative care team etc

• Input audit data
FINALLY, community ICD deactivation - lessons to be learnt & progress?

- Support / clinical supervision for staff / cardiac physiologists

- Invest time in training DGH cardiac physiology teams to help with ICD deactivations

- Invest time in training / education

- Forward planning & “early”, planned deactivation is best
Dignity & choice at end of life
1 chance to get it right!
Thank you
References:


- General Medical Council (2010). *Treatment and care towards the end of life: good practice in decision making.* Available at: www.gmc-uk.org/publications/standards_guidance_for_doctors.asp.


