PURPOSE

To provide guidelines to assist in deactivating an implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (ICD)

DEFINITION

- **ICD**: used to treat people at risk for sudden death due to ventricular tachycardia or ventricular fibrillation. An ICD delivers an electrical charge to the myocardium during an arrhythmic event, and the “shock” allows the ventricle to resume a normal rhythm. These shocks can be painful and continuous at times.
- An ICD can have pacemaker capabilities
- Turning off the ICD means that the device will no longer provide life-saving therapy in the event of a life threatening arrhythmia
- Turning off the ICD will not cause death
- Turning off the ICD will not be painful

INDICATIONS FOR DEACTIVATION OF ICD

- IDC not consistent with patient goals
- Discontinuation of anti-arrhythmic medications
- DNR order. (ICD’s attempt to resuscitate the patient by delivering a shock when the heart goes into a life threatening arrhythmia.)

POLICY

1. Obtain copy of the Advance Directive
2. Assess patient’s desire to have the ICD deactivated. (Registered Nurses and Medical Social Workers)
3. The primary RN or designee will notify the IDT of the patient/advocate’s desire to have the ICD deactivated
4. Obtain the patient/advocate signature on the consent for “ICD Deactivation” if not identified in the patient’s Advance Directive
5. Document per HPH&PC policy
6. Consult the Ethics Committee if there is conflict among providers or family members

RESPONSIBLE PERSONS

- Hospice RN
- Medical Social Worker
- Medical Director
- IDT
DEACTIVATION OF THE IMPLANTABLE CARDIOVERTER DEFIBRILLATOR (ICD)

PROCEDURE

1. The Case Manager, RN will discuss with the patient and family the internal defibrillating device, the implications of deactivating the IDC and document discussion in the progress notes.

2. If the patient and family choose to have the device deactivated, the RN will notify the attending physician of the patient and the family wishes.

3. Once the physician’s order is obtained to deactivate the device, the RN will call the company that manufactured the device for their individual deactivation procedure. (This information should be able to be obtained from the family in the packet given to them at time of implantation. If not, call the physician’s office that implanted the device.)

4. Follow the procedure as outlined by the company representative. In many cases, a representative from the company will need to visit the patient to deactivate the device. In other cases deactivation may be done over the phone.

5. Document process on narrative note.

FYI: The most common devices being used in our area are:

- CPI/Guidant  1-800-CARDIAC
- Medtronic  1-888-499-7223
- Ventritex  1-800-722-3423