

**Important Patient/Family Information on
IMPLANTED DEFIBRILLATORS****What is an Implantable Defibrillator?**

This is a device about the size of a pager that monitors your heart rate. It uses batteries to send electric signals to a heart that's beating too slow, same as a pacemaker. It can also deliver an electric shock to help restore a normal heartbeat to a heart that's beating chaotically and much too fast. Cardiac defibrillation is a way to return an abnormally fast or disorganized heartbeat to normal with an electric shock.

An Implanted Cardiac Defibrillator is a lifesaving device that's put inside your body.

The above information is important for patients and families to know when electing hospice care. It is the recommendation of Hospice of New York that these devices be deactivated as soon as possible following admission to the hospice program. Patients or families who elect not to deactivate the defibrillator will still be eligible for admission and may continue to be treated by Hospice of New York.

It is our policy to inform the patient and family of possible untoward effects resulting from the charges of the defibrillator. Hospice of New York will coordinate the deactivation of the device or continue the monitoring and palliative care of the patient should they elect not to deactivate the defibrillator. This procedure will not deactivate the active pacemaker which is unlikely to interfere with peaceful dying.

It is possible that shocks, both to the patient and possibly their caregivers may occur when the heartbeat becomes slowed or erratic. This typically occurs when death approaches.

While there have been no long term consequences to patients or caregivers in such instances, the electric shocks may be painful for the patient and distressing for the family. This is inconsistent with the Hospice philosophy to provide dignity and comfort during the dying process.

If the patient/family agrees to deactivation, the case manager, in consultation with the Medical Director and the Attending Physician, shall make all necessary arrangements to have the procedure done, including transportation. Patients residing in contracted facilities will have their defibrillator deactivated in accordance with that facility's policy. The cost of deactivation will be determined on a case by case basis (depending on the hospice diagnosis), but is generally the responsibility of hospice.

If the patient and family decide to maintain the defibrillator, they will be asked to sign the following release form indicating that they understand the potential for patient discomfort and/or minor shocks to the caregivers, particularly as death approaches.

HOSPICE OF NEW YORK

700-228A

Implanted Defibrillator Release Form

I, _____,

am in receipt of Hospice of New York's Patient/Family Information Sheet regarding Implanted Defibrillators. I understand the potential complications of not deactivating this device. I do ___ I do not ___ wish to deactivate my implanted defibrillator at this time. I understand that I may request deactivation in the future, should I change my mind.

ICD type and manufacturer: _____

Patient Name

MR#: N _____

Patient and/or Guardian/Representative Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Hospice of New York Witness

_____/_____/_____
Date