



# Subcutaneous Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (S-ICD)

Reviewed: April 2026  
Next review: April 2027  
Version 5

## ➤ Important contact numbers

**Arrhythmia Nurse:** 07970187324  
**Coronary Care Unit:** 0141 951 5202  
**Ward 2 East:** 0141 951 5250

## ➤ Follow-up Centre

Sticker

## ➤ About this leaflet

The purpose of this leaflet is to provide information about your Subcutaneous Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (S-ICD) and what you can expect from your treatment.

## ➤ Why is a S-ICD implanted?

An S-ICD is implanted to treat fast or abnormal heart rhythms (tachyarrhythmia) which can cause symptoms such as light headedness, palpitations and loss of consciousness.

In some cases, these fast/abnormal heart rhythms can be life threatening.

There are 2 groups of patients who may have an S-ICD implanted:

- Primary prevention or Prophylactic: If you have not experienced a tachyarrhythmia but are at risk of having one in the future due to an existing medical condition (such as cardiomyopathy or a heart attack from a myocardial infarction).
- Secondary prevention: If you have experienced a tachyarrhythmia requiring medical attention, you may be at risk of having another episode in the future.

## ➤ How does a S-ICD work?

The S-ICD continuously monitors your heart rate. If your heart rhythm changes to a fast/abnormal heart rhythm the device would detect this and treat it appropriately.

The way in which the device will do this: