

A. Introduction

An AICD is an implantable defibrillator device that consists of a lead system that senses cardiac electrical activity, computer circuitry to analyze EKG rhythm, a power supply for unit function and generation of voltage, and a capacitor that stores and delivers shocks when indicated. The AICD has two functions: defibrillator and pacemaker. These devices may occasionally malfunction.

B. AICD discharges

BLS

1. Initial assessment/care [Protocol 1](#)
2. Airway Management [Protocol 7](#)
3. **Administer Aspirin** [Protocol 10](#)

ALS

1. Treat significant PVC's [Protocol 9](#)
2. Transport ALS with ECG Monitor, O2 via NRB mask and IV to the closest appropriate hospital.

C. AICD is confirmed by ECG to be discharging inappropriately

ALS

1. **Monitor ECG** and verify sinus rhythm AND inappropriate defibrillator discharge.
2. Consider **Versed (midazolam)** 5mg slow IV/IM, at any time with a conscious patient needing sedation.
3. Transport ALS with ECG Monitor, O2 via NRB mask and IV to the closest appropriate hospital.

Notes:

1. Identification information of the AICD type is usually given to the patient as a wallet card. This should accompany the patient to the ED.
2. CPR may be performed over an actively firing internal defibrillator. If external defibrillation is required, avoid placing patches over the implanted device.