

What Is An ICD?

An implantable cardioverter defibrillator helps prevent sudden cardiac arrest. It is called an ICD for short.

You may need an ICD if you are at high risk for a life-threatening heart rhythm. This problem can cause cardiac arrest.

An ICD is a small battery-powered device. It is put under your skin, near your collarbone. It is connected to your heart with wires called leads.

The ICD keeps track of your heartbeat. If it detects a problem, it sends an electric shock to your heart. This shock resets your heart's rhythm.

The ICD also keeps a log of these events. Your healthcare provider can access this data remotely. They can use it to make sure the ICD is working best for you.