

A-160 Management of Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator (AICD)

Purpose

Maintain implant function to provide continuous monitoring of the heart rate and rhythm and deliver counter shocks to the heart in the event there is life threatening recurrent ventricular dysrhythmia.

Applies To

Registered Nurses

Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses

Other (*Identify*): _____

Equipment/Supplies

None

Special Considerations

- Anxiety and neurological impairment can interfere with ability to process information. Repeated teaching sessions may be necessary.
- Local emergency medical services should be informed that the client has an AICD.
- Caregivers should be taught CPR if they are not already certified.

Procedure

1. Assess the home for environmental interference. Instruct the client to move away from any device that causes the AICD to emit a beeping sound. *(Household appliances and microwave ovens will not interfere with the device.)*
2. Assess emotional adaptation to the AICD.
3. Assess the effects of cardiac medications.
4. Instruct the client to lie down when the AICD discharges.
5. Instruct client to keep a diary of events resulting from each discharge and examine the diary each visit.
6. Review any activity restrictions with client and caregiver.
7. Instruct client not to wear tight clothing.
8. Instruct the client to wear a Medic-Alert bracelet at all times and keep information about the device in his/her wallet.
9. Instruct significant others to activate EMS and initiate CPR should cardiac arrest occur.

Documentation Guidelines

Document in the clinical record.

1. Teaching done and outcome of teaching.
2. Condition of surgical sites and generator packet if applicable.
3. Response to AICD shocks.
4. Physical and emotional assessment data.
5. Plans for future visits.

Related Procedures

None

Policy History

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