**Appendix 1: Outline of the methodology**

Ethical approval

& contract signed with Project Implicit

**Define the research question**

What are the clinical and professional factors that may impact on the decision to discuss ICD deactivation?

Commence work with Project Implicit

Questionnaire construction:

(Personal, professional, “last case”, standard vignette)

**Objective One**

Systematic review of the literature 2008-2014

Semi-structured interviews with patient (n=10) & carers (n=10)

Create textual vignette and 3 decision questions at the end of the vignette

**Objective Three**

Identify Independent variables (IV)

(n=9)

Factorial Survey Design

Preliminary Research

Data Analysis

**Objective Four**

International Survey via Project Implicit (total population)

* Questionnaire
* 6 unique vignettes
* Anonymity assured

Data collection (online)

Validate with clinical experts

Pre-Test

Vignettes checked for clarity & realism

(n=200)

**Objective Two**

Retrospective case note review Sept 2012-Sept 2013

Focus groups with clinical team (n=9)

Confirm links to professional organisations:

BHF, BCS, ICS, CCNAP

Statistical data analysis (using SPSS)