Basic Treatment Guidelines:
Follow initial protocol for all patients.

While rare in occurrence, management of the patient with a malfunctioning Automatic Implanted Cardiac Defibrillator (AICD) presents the ECP with a life-threatening emergency.

Utilize the following guidelines when caring for the patient with a malfunctioning AICD.

- If the AICD discharges while you are touching the patient, you may feel a slight sensation. It will not hurt you!
- AICDs are generally implanted under the skin in the left lower abdominal area or left upper chest just below the clavicle.
- Patients with an AICD will generally carry a wallet card or Medic-Alert bracelet with important data regarding cutoff rates.
- AICD’s will deliver the first shock within 10-30 seconds after recognizing the arrhythmia.
- Subsequent shocks will be delivered every 10-20 seconds.
- Use of a deactivating ring magnet will “blind the AICD from seeing VT/VF rhythm.
- Use of a deactivating ring magnet on a patient with a dual-purpose pacemaker/AICD will not shut off the pacemaker but only return the pacemaker to the asynchronous factory set pace rate that is generally about 85 beats per minute.

Advanced Treatment Guidelines:
1. Establish on ECG that the AICD is inappropriately discharging in the presence of a non-VT/VF rhythm.
2. Deactivate the AICD by locating the unit and placing the top arc of the magnetic ring on the center of the AICD unit. Once the unit has stopped discharging, tape the magnet in place.
3. Perform 12 lead ECG.