UMBILICAL OR PERIPHERAL CATHETER INSERTION FOR PRETERM INFANTS ON ADMISSION TO THE NICU: THE APOLLO–UP TRIAL

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BACKGROUND
Hypothermia in infants born prematurely is an independent risk factor for mortality. Preterm infants are at risk of heat loss during periods of prolonged exposure, such as umbilical venous catheter insertion.

RESEARCH QUESTION (AIMS)
P – among infants born <29 weeks GA, or with BW <1250g, does
I – insertion of a peripheral intravenous cannula (median time 10 minutes)
C – compared to umbilical catheter insertion on admission (median time 53 minutes)
O – increase the proportion of infants with a normal temperature
T – at 2 hours of life?

METHODS
Setting
Single centre (NMH)

Participants
Inborn <29 / 40 or BW <1250g

Randomisation
CONTROL
Central Access (long exposure)

INTERVENTION
Peripheral Access (short exposure)

Primary outcome
Core temperature at 2 hours of age

RESULTS
Recruitment: March 2021 - present
Sample size = 116
Recruitment rate = 95%
Interim analysis when 50% recruited (n = 58)
Expected date of completion: August 2022

CONCLUSION
This study is both feasible and acceptable to parents and staff. The results of this novel study will provide valuable information that may inform changes in clinical practice locally, nationally and internationally.

Figure 1: Patient recruitment