



Improving quality of care and outcome at very preterm birth programme grant

RESEARCH UPDATE

Number 3

Welcome

We have now passed the eighteen month point of the Preterm Birth Programme. Work is continuing on all the work packages with the first results beginning to emerge.

18 month report

The first interim report was submitted to the NIHR in early September and approval has been received. Thank you to all those involved in the research so far for all your hard work.

Pilot trial receives ethics approval

Full ethics approval was received for the pilot randomised trial of delayed cord clamping and initial care at the bedside in July 2012. This was as a result of the work of all those involved in the Collaborative Steering Group that held regular protocol preparation meetings. Thank you to Alexandra Erven from Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit who coordinated the submission of the protocol to the ethics committee.

Change of institution

Susan Ayers, lead of the Parent's Views project, moved to City University London on 1st October. The project will remain at University of Sussex and continue to lead by Susan.

Conference presentations

Papers or posters have been presented at

- Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health Conference 2012, 22-24 May, Glasgow, UK.
- 18th Psychology Days Conference 2012, 24-26 May, Zadar Croatia.
- Institute of Education, University of London Doctoral School Summer Conference 2012, 14 June, London, UK.
- Paediatrics and Neonatal Research Symposium 2012, 28 September, Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals, UK.
- European Academy of Paediatric Societies 2012, 5-9 October, Istanbul, Turkey

LIFESTART trolley

The Lifestart (formally 'Basics') trolley was delivered to Liverpool on 2nd October so that training on the equipment can commence. This is exciting news for the research team who have been eagerly waiting for the trolley while it has been undergoing safety tests for CE approval.



Photograph by Bill Yoxall

Programme Steering Group Meeting dates

- 30 October 2012
- 26 February 2013
- 18 June 2013
- 12 November 2013



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NCTU
Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit



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Survey closes

The survey to collect research questions from service users and clinicians, who have had an experience of preterm birth closed on 16th September.

1,050 people started the survey

310 people completed the survey

190 provided contact details

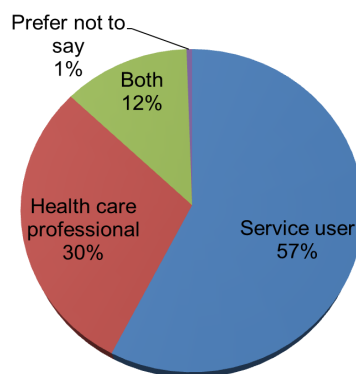


Chart showing percentage of Health care professionals and service users who responded

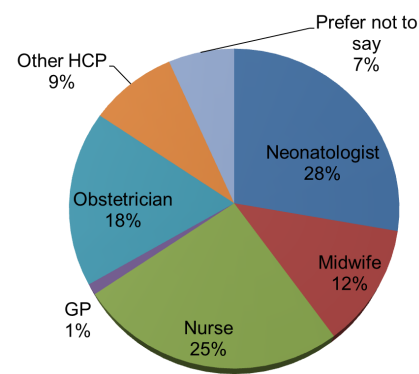


Chart showing the spread of disciplines of the clinicians who responded

Focus on a work package—Measuring Placental Transfusion

This work package is an observational study that aims to assess the volume and duration of placental transfusion at preterm birth. The three centres involved are Nottingham Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham City Hospital, and Bradford Teaching Hospital NHS Trust. The study's design replicates a previous study led by Lelia Duley that measured placental transfusion of infants born at term. It involves the baby being placed on digital weighing scales next to the mother's bed for up to five minutes at birth. During this time the baby is kept warm and the placental blood flow measured by recording the rise in the weight of the baby. This data is being collated and analysed by the Nottingham Clinical Trials Unit to inform the pilot randomised trial.

The study is aiming to recruit 60 women over 12 months. It initially recruited term babies in order to train staff and

devise the best methodology. It has begun gradually stepping down the lower gestational age of infants until very preterm babies are being recruited. The first site opened in March 2012 and 32 term infants were recruited across all three sites by July. It was very exciting for the team to start recruiting preterm infants to the study in the summer.



Photograph—The first term baby to be recruited by Nottingham City Hospital for the Measuring Placental Transfusion Study. Baby Florence Fiona Ashford born on 1 May 2012. With thanks to the parents for allowing the use of the photograph.

"I feel very fortunate to be one of the research midwives working on this study. It is so rewarding to feel that our work may help to improve outcomes for babies born prematurely. I enjoy meeting the prospective new parents, and it is a real privilege to be there when the baby is born. And I love seeing the babies grow and thrive! It's always a little sad to say 'goodbye' when they leave hospital, but it's wonderful to see the family beginning their new life together. The research team is so grateful to these families - by helping us with our study, the parents and baby make a really important contribution to improving care for ALL premature babies."

Nicky Grace, CLRN Research Midwife, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust City Hospital Campus.

NIHR Programme in Applied Health Research Improving quality of care and outcome at very preterm birth

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