

2. Screening, eligibility & enrolment

Is the baby eligible?

Appropriately trained and delegated clinicians, research nurses and health care professionals can carry out screening and eligibility checks.

The inclusion and exclusion criteria for the study are:

Inclusion criteria

- Gestational age at birth less than 34+0 gestational weeks+days (up to and including 33+6 gestational weeks+days)
- Nasogastric or orogastric tube in place

Exclusion criteria

- Infant has received more than 15 ml/kg/day of milk for more than 24 hours
- Gastrointestinal surgical condition (including suspected necrotising enterocolitis and focal intestinal perforation) prior to randomisation
- Major congenital abnormalities
- No realistic prospect of survival
- A parent has opted out of infant's participation in neoGASTRIC

Notes on eligibility criteria:

If the infant has suspected NEC, even if not surgically managed, do not include the infant.

Co-enrolment to other studies:

NeoGASTRIC is supportive of co-enrolment in other interventional studies and other studies will be crosschecked to ensure compatibility. Please refer to the protocol for most up to date details. **Please check which the neoGASTRIC coordinating centre if you have any queries.**

Maximising study awareness:

Posters and a banner are provided, please put up around the unit in prominent places around your unit e.g. breastfeeding rooms, parent kitchen/break-out rooms, parental boards and corridors and reception areas. Additionally, please use promotional and stationery items, which could act as visible reminders for screening and recruitment.

What to provide to parents

Please provide parents/legal guardians with the following neoGASTRIC information once they are admitted to the ward (NICU):

- The printed neoGASTRIC parent information sheet (PIS). The PIS is available in additional languages, please see section 1 of the document box. We suggest to add this to the NICU admission pack.
- NeoGASTRIC video presentation of trial information on the tablet provided in the document box.

Infants that meet the eligibility criteria (and parents haven't opted them out) should be randomised and included in the trial.

Screening Log

Please complete the Screening log for all infants on your unit who were born preterm at less than 34⁺⁰ gestational weeks^{+ days}.

- The neoGASTRIC screening log should be completed online on the randomisation website monthly. This can be reached from the *screening log* link on the randomisation home page.
- Local ID should not be infants' NHS number.

PLEASE DO NOT SEND PATIENT IDENTIFIABLE INFORMATION ON THE SCREENING LOG.

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