

## Step-up RCT crosses the halfway line!

Following the exciting news that the step-down RCT completed recruitment in May, **congratulations** are now due to all step-up RCT sites as we have just reached the halfway mark for recruitment! The 300th patient was recruited at *Royal Manchester Hospital for Children*! We are also pleased to report that all sites have now re-opened the trial following closures due to COVID-19.

We are very grateful to everyone across all sites for your continued enthusiasm and engagement, especially during this difficult time - keep up the brilliant work!

## Top 3 step-up RCT recruiters

since June 2020

- 20 Royal Manchester Children's Hospital
- 9 Southampton Children's Hospital
- 9 Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

## HINTS & TIPS



### Study procedures

- ⇒ Eligible patients should be randomised as close as possible to the anticipated start of treatment (CPAP/HFNC). Please work with your teams to ensure all randomised patients start the allocated treatment.
- ⇒ CPAP should be started at a pressure of **7-8** cm H<sub>2</sub>O
- ⇒ HFNC should be started at a flow rate based on the patients weight. For patients ≤12 kg, the starting flow rate should be **2** l/min/kg.
- ⇒ Both CPAP and HFNC should be weaned using a "one step" wean, as per the algorithm.



### Data collection

- ⇒ Daily observations should be recorded for 48 hours after the date/time of liberation.
- ⇒ Weaning forms only need to be completed when patients are weaned (i.e. flow rate or pressure reduced) from CPAP or HFNC
- ⇒ Don't forget to use the 'Transferred patients data collection form' when patients are transferred to other hospitals. This ensures key trial data are still recorded for these patients.



### Screening

- ⇒ Please provide comments on the reasons why eligible patients have not been randomised on the screening log, where possible.
- ⇒ Some sites have found engaging ED and ward teams to identify eligible step-up patients within the eligibility time window a useful strategy for maximising recruitment!



### Step-down RCT

Thanks to everyone for all your hard work in getting the database up-to-date for the step-down RCT - we are not far off from locking the database for the analysis now! We will keep the database open for a few more weeks to allow for final data checks and any outstanding queries to be resolved. We would be grateful if you could continue to check the DCRs on the database periodically.

If you haven't already, please also submit the PICANet data for your step-down RCT patients, as this data is very important for the health economic analyses.

### Contact us



#### FIRST-ABC Study Team

Email: [firstabc@icnarc.org](mailto:firstabc@icnarc.org)  
Telephone: 020 7269 9277  
Website: [www.icnarc.org](http://www.icnarc.org)