



# BASE

## Introduction to the BASE Study

The BASE study is looking at whether or not to give sodium bicarbonate when a premature baby has a condition called metabolic acidosis.

### What is metabolic acidosis?

Metabolic acidosis is a build-up of acid in the blood. Many babies that are born very prematurely will experience metabolic acidosis during their hospital stay.

### The use of sodium bicarbonate for metabolic acidosis

A drug called sodium bicarbonate is often used when a baby has metabolic acidosis. Some doctors believe that giving sodium bicarbonate lowers acid levels in the blood and helps the working of the heart, but others believe sodium bicarbonate raises acid levels inside the cells of the body which can affect blood flow to the brain and other organs in the body.

Both giving and not giving sodium bicarbonate when a baby has metabolic acidosis is standard care and varies between different hospitals around the UK. The reason practice differs widely is because the use of sodium bicarbonate to treat metabolic acidosis in preterm babies has never been properly studied.

### Your baby's involvement

Parents of babies eligible to participate in the BASE study will be asked whether or not they would like their baby to be included in the study and their decision recorded in their baby's medical record and Investigator Site File (ISF).

All babies taking part will be put into one of two groups:

- To routinely be given sodium bicarbonate when they have metabolic acidosis
- To not routinely be given sodium bicarbonate when they have metabolic acidosis



## Your participation

We will collect most of the data we need directly from your baby's hospital record. When your child is about 2 years old, we will ask you to complete a questionnaire about their development. This is the only questionnaire we'll ask you to complete.

## Further information

For further information about the study, please see the Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any questions please ask a member of the neonatal team, or you can contact the BASE study team at ***base@npeu.ox.ac.uk***.

### The BASE Study Team

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This study is funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme (Reference Number NIHR151086). The views expressed are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of the NIHR or the Department of Health and Social Care.