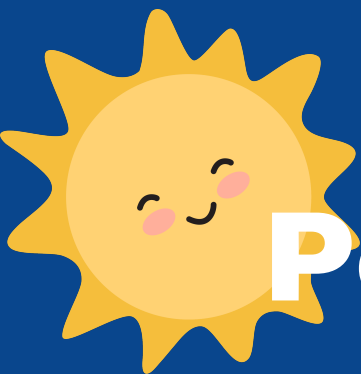




Summer 2026



Peruki Newsletter



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RESEARCH PRIORITIES PUBLISHED!

Original research

**OPEN ACCESS**

Refreshing the paediatric emergency medicine research priorities across the UK and Ireland

Charlotte Sloane ^{1,2} Thomas Waterfield,^{1,2} Jordan Evans,^{3,4} Michael Barrett ^{5,6}, Mark D Lyttle ⁷ Niall Mullen,⁸ performed on behalf of PERUKI

Handling editor Richard Body

► Additional supplemental material is published online only. To view, please visit the journal online (<https://doi.org/10.1136/emmed-2025-215836>).

¹Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine, Queen's University Belfast
²Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for

ABSTRACT

Background The original research priorities for paediatric emergency medicine (PEM) in the UK and Ireland were published in 2015. This list, generated through a modified Delphi process involving healthcare professionals only, has driven the research agenda for over ten years. With many now successfully addressed and a significantly altered healthcare landscape, there was a pressing need to refresh PEM research priorities with the input of patients and carers.

WHAT IS ALREADY KNOWN ON THIS TOPIC

⇒ Paediatric Emergency Research UK and Ireland (PERUKI) published the first paediatric emergency medicine (PEM) research priorities within the UK and Ireland in 2015, following a two-stage modified Delphi online survey of their healthcare professional membership. This list formed the foundation of PERUKI's research agenda over the last decade.

Last year PERUKI successfully refreshed the list of research priorities for PEM across the UK and Ireland, ensuring they reflected the most pressing issues faced by patients, carers, and healthcare professionals today.

The results gave us the following TOP TEN research areas which will be our focus of research going forward. We are delighted to announce that these have been published in the [Emergency Medicine Journal](#) (EMJ) in June. Please have a read of the full article for more information.

Study updates:

studies in progress



CRESCENT



CRESCENT - Carbogen for Status Epilepticus in Children Trial. Seizure control via pH manipulation: a phase II double blind RCT of inhaled carbogen (95% O₂/5% CO₂) as adjunctive treatment of paediatric convulsive status epilepticus.

We are in the home straight, aiming to complete recruitment in October. Please can all sites be vigilant to help us maximise recruits.

The HOPSA study



We have 2 sites live currently: Brighton and East Kent Ashford. Two participants have been recruited so far and there has been a slight lull over peak Summer currently, which is as expected.

Three further sites will imminently be going live in August: Middlesbrough, Edinburgh and Salisbury.

We hope that all 9 sites will be live by mid September.



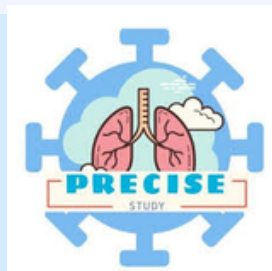
CURLY

Recruitment to the CURLY study is ongoing. We would really appreciate any work that sites can do to optimise recruitment.

We are excited to announce that we are currently in the process of opening in Ireland!

Any issues please email Shrouk or the Curly Study team:
curly@trials.bham.ac.uk

The PRECISE Study



The PRECISE study continues to recruit through its observational study, investigating the role of respiratory viruses and blood eosinophils in children presenting with acute preschool wheeze.

Building on the completed feasibility RCT, this phase aims to improve our understanding of the biological mechanisms underlying preschool wheeze.

The results of the PRECISE feasibility RCT, which demonstrated the feasibility and acceptability of point-of-care respiratory virus testing and finger-prick eosinophil sampling, will be published soon.

Follow on [@PRECISESTUDYNI](https://twitter.com/PRECISESTUDYNI)

Study updates: more studies in progress



BRONCHSTART/STOP



This is about to re-open for another season specifically looking at the young infant group and the impact of vaccine given the slow poor uptake rate.

BACH b TRIAL



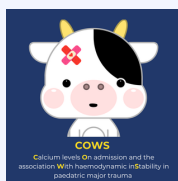
This is an important study as the epigenetics of bronchiolitis change to vaccination. We are nearly there but it is really important that this short extension to get it over the line is successful.

EVITA



The EVITA study is recruiting slightly above target but there are some issues with ensuring all data is recorded correctly. We need a big push in September to ensure all available recruitment takes place with the winter surge.

COWS



We are udderly grateful for all of your support. The survey is now published in [BMJ Paediatrics Open](#) and the multi-centre study is under review. Further explorations of this are planned: keep moo-nitoning this space.

FROG STUDY COMPLETED - sites invited for definitive trial



The NIHR-funded FROG feasibility study has now completed all three work packages: a randomised controlled feasibility trial, an embedded qualitative perspectives study and a stakeholder consensus meeting.

Work package one recruited 99 participants, of whom 64 were randomised to either clean catch urine sampling or transurethral bladder catheterisation (TUBC). The study team are currently preparing the findings for publication.

Overall, the feasibility work demonstrated that a definitive trial is achievable and identified strong stakeholder support for comparing clean catch sampling as the first-line approach with TUBC as the first-line approach. We are now developing the definitive trial and would be delighted to hear from PERUKI sites interested in participating. Please contact the Chief Investigator, Thomas Waterfield, at t.waterfield@qub.ac.uk.



See you very soon!



****2026 PERUKI/APEM conference****

Our PERUKI conference on the 15-16th of September 2026 in the sunny city of Southampton in collaboration with APEM is now sold out. For those of you joining us, please check emails to book tickets for the social on the 15th.



THE KATH BERRY PRIZE



In order to meet our vision, PERUKI are now able to support a number of studies each year with small amounts of funding. The Kath Berry Prize is now currently closed following the first round of successful applications. The next phase will open 2026/2027 and we will announce this via email and on the website!



Get in touch!

If you have any questions, queries or study proposals please get in touch:

- E-mail us: perukimail@gmail.com
- Twitter [@perukitweep](https://twitter.com/perukitweep)
- Website <http://www.peruki.org/>