Patient Population

Inclusion:
- incident or prevalent haemodialysis patients with tunnelled intravenous catheters
- able to give informed consent

Exclusion:
- intolerance to ethanol
- personal, cultural or other objection to the use of ethanol
- history of an exit site, tunnel, or bloodstream infection associated with the current catheter
- pregnancy

n=112

Stratification
- incident vs prevalent catheters

Randomisation

Ethanol lock
3mL 70% lock weekly after HD
Heparin lock twice weekly after other HD sessions (n = 56)

Followed thrice weekly whilst catheter in situ

Heparin Lock
Thrice weekly after HD (n = 56)

Endpoints

Primary Endpoint
time to first episode of catheter-related bacteraemia (CRB)

Secondary Endpoints – whether intervention results in:

a) adverse reactions
b) incidence of CRB caused by different pathogens
c) time to infection-related catheter removal
d) time to exit site infection
e) costs