Identification of high risk major surgical patients n = 300 (100%)

First randomisation group allocation n = 204 (67%)

Fluid loading n = 102
No fluid loading n = 102

Operating theatre n = 204

ICU care n = 87
HDU care n = 87

No ICU bed available n = 30

Ward care n = 204

Hospital discharge n = 204

6 month follow up n = 156