Reviewer’s report

Title: Study of therapeutic hypothermia (32-35 degreesC) for intracranial pressure reduction after traumatic brain injury (the Eurotherm3235Trial). Outcome of the Pilot phase of the trial

Version: 2 Date: 15 June 2013

Reviewer: Robert Stevens

Reviewer’s report:

In this manuscript, Andrews et al. relate on feasibility based on the pilot phase of the Eurotherm 3235 Trial. The investigators are to be congratulated on their implementation of this large scale study in multiple sites across the world. Several limitations need to be addressed.

1. What are the targeted and actual patient accrual rates? Is this study on target for enrolment or are they running behind? If the target is not being met, can the authors explain why?

2. Can the authors provide more details on safety? They state “There were seven serious or severe adverse events (SAEs), all unrelated to the intervention.” What were these events?

3. Is there a data safety monitoring board? How are they exercising their oversight?

4. Is there a plan for interim analysis to determine efficacy, harm, futility?

5. A large number of patients (46) were excluded for “other reason” (table 2). Can the authors provide a breakdown of these reasons? This is important information for this and other trials.

6. Many other patients were excluded because they were > 72 hours from injury – would it be worthwhile considering a wider enrolment window?

7. Could the authors clarify the funding source? It appears that the study was initially funded by the ESICM, but now is being funded by the NHS. How and why did this change occur?

Level of interest: An article whose findings are important to those with closely related research interests

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: No, the manuscript does not need to be seen by a statistician.

Declaration of competing interests:
None.