Reviewer's report

Title: Impact of withholding early parenteral nutrition completing enteral nutrition in pediatric critically ill patients (PEPaNIC trial): study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

Version: 3 Date: 13 April 2015

Reviewer: Catherine D'Este

Reviewer's report:

This is a re-review following revisions of the manuscript based on previous reviewer comments.

The authors have addressed all issues raised very well. I have a couple of minor additional points.

Minor Essential Revisions

I could not see a sample size justification for the second primary outcome – length of PICU stay, or for assessment of intervention effect modification by baseline risk factors (ie assessment of interaction).

Discretionary Revisions

Randomization procedure: the term “in a one to one ratio” is repeated in the first and second sentences.

Under paragraph two of the Statistical Analysis Plan, I suggest some rewording of the last sentence from “For none of the acute primary and secondary outcomes, data imputation will be done.” To something like “No data imputation will be undertaken for any of the primary or secondary outcomes.”

Level of interest: An article of importance in its field

Quality of written English: Acceptable

Statistical review: Yes, and I have assessed the statistics in my report.

Declaration of competing interests:

I declare that I have no competing interests