Reviewer's report

Title: The effect of physiotherapy including frequent changes of body position and stimulation to physical activity for infants hospitalised with acute airway infections. Study protocol for a randomised controlled trial.

Version: 0  Date: 27 Feb 2020

Reviewer: Elizabeth George

Reviewer's report:

This study is a small randomised control trial looking to evaluate two procedures already in place in hospitals in Sweden to improve clinical outcomes of children with acute airway infection. It is important to add evidence to clinical procedures and good to see clinical trials like this being run. I have a few comments to help with clarification.

The analysis is described as intention to treat but under the inclusion of participants paragraph, children in the control group or non-individualised group who later are prescribed physiotherapy will be excluded. If they are excluded from the study (and thus the analysis) then I would suggest the analysis is per-protocol and that this later possible exclusion of certain children be made clear in Figure 1. It would also be helpful to indicate whether children in the individualised group who do not receive their intervention, as a physiotherapist was not available, will have their data included or not. It is mentioned as part of possible 'drop out' in the discussion section that they will be excluded but these children should be included in the analysis if it is intention to treat.

I would suggest adding when some of the secondary outcomes will be measured i.e respiratory rate, wheezing sound, retractions/nasal flaring, general condition in Table 1. I would also suggest indicating how the oral intake at each feeding session fits into the specific time points when the clinical index is calculated. I.e would they use the nearest feeding session fluid intake or just the feeding session prior to when everything else is measured?

I was interested that the authors have assumed in the sample size calculations that the individualised and non-individualised interventions will have the same effect on the children and their primary outcomes compared to control. It may be worth saying something about this in the discussion as I guess the study will not be powered to compare those two arms directly.

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