

We are a group of neonatologists and researchers based at Imperial College London and Chelsea and Westminster NHS Foundation Trust. We are at planning a landmark, UK-wide study to resolve two long-standing, highly important, uncertainties regarding how best to feed very preterm babies and would appreciate the views of parents and former patients.

A mother's own milk is unique to her, and the best food for her baby, but mothers delivering preterm are on average only able to meet half their baby's needs. Therefore, the first uncertainty is whether preterm formula or pasteurised human donor milk from a milk bank provides better benefit if there is insufficient own mother's milk. The second is whether it is beneficial to very preterm babies to add extra protein and carbohydrate routinely to human milk. These are important questions because clinicians are divided in their views on the balance of risks and benefits of each option.

We would be particularly grateful to know if we have explained the reason for the study clearly, how it will be carried out, and why it is important for the care we provide to very preterm babies. If you would be willing to help, please let us know if you would be able to join an on-line discussion on any of the following dates and times in October.

Please email [b.moss@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:b.moss@imperial.ac.uk) as soon as possible, providing your preferred date.

- Tuesday October 13th 1200
- Wednesday October 14th 1400
- Wednesday October 14th 1800
- Thursday October 15th 1600
- Friday October 16th 1100

Thank you very much for your help!

Becky Moss and Will Lammons, Patient-Public Involvement Lead

Neena Modi, Professor of Neonatal Medicine