**Participant Information Sheet**

**Welfare Attorney / Welfare Guardian / Nearest Relative (Scotland)**

You are invited to consider giving your permission for your relative to take part in a research study. To help you decide whether or not your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of should take part, it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. It may be the case that your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of has already been entered into the study with the agreement of one of the doctors treating them to prevent any delay to their treatment starting. This was only done after our best efforts to contact you were not successful. If this was the case, we will discuss with you what has already happened and whether you give your permission for them to stay in the study. The information below would have been given to you if you were available at the time. Please take the time to read the following information carefully. Talk to others about the study if you wish. Contact us if there is anything that is not clear, or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish for your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of to take part.

**Purpose of the Study**

Sepsis is a life-threatening reaction to an infection. It happens when the immune system overreacts to an infection and starts to damage the body’s tissues and organs.

The aim of this research study is to compare the two different ways to treat sepsis, in the early phase of treatment immediately after your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of arrived in hospital. The standard approach is to give a salt solution fluid through a drip in their arm to start with, then later adding in a medication that increases the blood flow to their vital organs (a vasopressor medication called norepinephrine) if required. The alternative approach is to start the vasopressor medication immediately if needed, and then add in extra salt solution fluid later via a drip if required. Vasopressors work by increasing the blood pressure which allows a better blood flow to the internal organs. We plan to see which approach is better and to see if they have a role in improving a patient’s recovery time, reducing complications, the length of time they stay in hospital and longer term poor health.

Based on research that has already been done, we believe treating patients with vasopressors when they arrive in the Emergency Department, may have potential advantages over the standard fluids used today. However, the evidence is not clear and that is why we are doing this research.

**Why has this patient been invited to take part?**

Your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of is being considered for taking part as they have been diagnosed with signs and symptoms of an infection (sepsis).

However, they currently lack the capacity to make an informed decision about whether they can take part in a research study. We are therefore asking you as their nearest relative, welfare attorney or guardian if you will give consent on their behalf to join the study. This is permissible under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000.

The Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000 require you to put your own views about the research aside and take into account and consider the present and past wishes and feelings of your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of.

**Do they have to take part?**

No, it is up to you to decide whether or not they take part in the research or not. If you decide your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of should take part you are still free to change your mind at any time and without giving a reason. Deciding not to take part or withdrawing your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of from the study will not affect the healthcare that they receive now or at any stage in the future.

**What will happen to them if they take part?**

A member of the research team will speak to you to discuss your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of participation in this study and make sure you understand everything. We will give you time to decide if you are happy for them to take part. At most this could be up to 30-40 minutes but may only be 10-15 minutes if you feel happy to make a decision. This is to make sure there is no delay to your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of treatment starting. You will then be asked to give written consent. We will review your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of medical notes including medical history, blood tests, other tests they may have had and any other treatment.

If your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of takes part in the study they will be put at random (like tossing a coin) into one of two treatment groups:

**Treatment 1 – Usual Treatment**

Your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of will be given the normal treatment used in the UK for treating infections – a salt solution (balanced crystalloid) solution via a drip. They may have medication to increase their blood pressure (vasopressors) added at a later point, depending on their condition.

**Treatment 2 - Intervention**

If needed, your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of will have the medication to increase the blood flow to their vital organs (vasopressors) started immediately, via a drip in their arm. They may be given extra salt solution fluid through the drip in their arm later, if required.

The medicine used in the intervention arm (norepinephrine) may harm an unborn child and women who are pregnant will not be able to take part in the study. A pregnancy test will be performed before any study treatment is administered in **all** women who could become pregnant. This includes women who routinely use contraception such as the combined oral contraceptive pill, have an intrauterine device (sometimes known as a ‘coil’) or who abstain from sexual intercourse.

**For Treatment 1 and Treatment 2**

Each treatment will be given for as long as they are required, but the trial treatment duration is 48 hours. Collection of data will stop after the 104 day follow-up period is complete. All other treatment will be decided by the doctor treating your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of, after discussing with you.

Once your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of leaves the hospital we will look at their medical records between 31-44 days later and between 91-104 days later to see how well they have recovered and if they have been back to hospital for any further tests or treatment. We won’t need to contact your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of again to do this.

Taking part in the study should not cause much inconvenience to your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of other than having to answer some additional questions about their health and completing a questionnaire. We will contact your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of to complete a short questionnaire between 31-44 days later and between 91-104 days later. The questionnaire takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

Your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of will not need to come to hospital for any additional visits.

**What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

There is no guarantee that your relative will receive any benefit from this study but the results from this study might help to improve the healthcare of future patients with sepsis.

**What are the possible disadvantages of taking part?**

It is not thought that there are many disadvantages to taking part in this study, however as with any treatment there are some risks. Occasionally when patients have vasopressors they develop mild reactions such as a headache or shortness of breath. These reactions normally disappear when the drip is slowed down or stopped. With any intravenous infusion there is also a risk of fluid leaking into the drip, it can cause inflammation and irritation at the surrounding tissue/skin. Evidence suggests that this occurs in about 3% of patients and your relatives/person you are consenting on behalf of infusion site will be checked regularly by a healthcare professional to minimise leaking. Another rare side effect of vasopressors is patients may experience irregular heart rate however your relative will be closely monitored by clinical care team to monitor any side effects.

**How will we use their information?**

We will need to use information about your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of from them and from their medical records in order to undertake this study. This information will include their name, sex at birth, CHI/NHS number, contact details and date of birth. People will use this information to do the research or to check their records to make sure that the research is being done properly.

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde is the sponsor of this study based in the United Kingdom, and will act as the Data Controller for this study. This means that we are responsible for looking after your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of information and using it properly. The University of Edinburgh will act as sole data controller for the purposes of data linkage only.

*[LOCALISE SITE NAME]* will keep your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of name, *NHS/CHI number* *[delete as appropriate]* and contact details confidential and will not pass any of this information other than a copy of your consent form, which confirms that you agreed for your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of to take part in the study. A member of the Study Monitoring team will look at your uploaded consent form on the trial database to ensure the form has been completed appropriately. Data Managers and staff at the University of Edinburgh will have access to the uploaded consent forms in order to perform their administrative role and control of the database, however staff viewing your consent will only do so where it is appropriate to their role and they will be fully trained in GDPR and legislation.

*[LOCALISE SITE NAME]* will use this information as needed, to contact your relative about the research study, and make sure relevant information about the study is recorded for your relative’s/person you are consenting on behalf of care, and to oversee the quality of the study. Certain individuals from NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and/or regulatory authorities may look at your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of medical and research records to check the accuracy of the research study.

In addition, a signed copy of your consent form, which identifies you by name will be uploaded to a secure University of Edinburgh server. Where identifiable data is collected or accessed this will be limited to the study monitors wherever possible, but it may become necessary for other members of the trial team from NHS GGC and the University of Edinburgh to access this data under certain exceptional circumstances. All members of the trial team are appropriately trained in the use of data collected from participants and will not access this data without reason.

*[LOCALISE SITE NAME]* will keep identifiable information about your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of from this study for 10 years after the study has finished.

People who do not need to know who your relative/the person you are consenting on behalf of are is, will not be able to see their name or contact details. All data gathered during the study will be coded by a unique identifier meaning that all of your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of personal details will be removed. We will record your their participation in their medical record so that other doctors involved in your their care will be aware. All information obtained for the study will also be entered into a secure computer server which is located at our expert data centre.

If you chose to consent to long term follow up about your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of future wellbeing by data linkage the University of Edinburgh will share your personal information on behalf of NHSGGC (NHS/CHI number, postcode, date of birth and sex at birth) with NHS departments (such as the electronic data research innovation service (eDRIS (Scotland)), NHS England, Sail (Wales)) at the end of the study. This is to allow them to provide us with information of your health status. We would also like to let your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of know about other research studies that may be of interest to them and will ask your permission to contact your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of about them. These studies would be subject to funding and regulatory approvals and consent for this is optional. If you chose to consent for your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of to be contacted about future research studies their personal information will be used by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to facilitate this. Any personal information provided for long term record linkage or contact about future research will be stored securely, kept strictly confidential and processed in accordance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (2018).

We also ask that we can inform your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of GP of participation in the study

**What if there are any problems?**

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study please contact a member of the research team (contact details below) who will do their best to answer any questions.

If you have a concern about any aspect of the study, you can speak to the study doctor who will do their best to answer any questions. If you remain unhappy and wish to complain formally you can do this by contacting the chief investigator – Dr Alasdair Corfield Alasdair.Corfield2@nhs.scot

The normal National Health Service Complaints mechanisms are available if you have any concerns or wish to complain. Tel: 0141 201 4500 email: ggc.complaints@nhs.scot

In the unlikely event that something goes wrong and your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of is harmed during the research and this is due to someone’s negligence then you may have grounds for legal action for compensation against *[LOCALISE health board]* but your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of may have to pay their legal costs.

**What will happen if I don’t want them to carry on with the study?**

Your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of participation is entirely voluntary. You can withdraw them from the study at any time (prior to them giving their own consent) without giving a reason, without their medical care or legal rights being affected.

**What are your choices about how your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of’s information is used?**

You can withdraw your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of at any time, without giving a reason, but we will keep information about your relative/person that you are consenting on behalf of that we already have.

Your rights to access, change or move your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of information are limited, as we need to manage their information in specific ways in order for the research to be reliable and accurate. If you withdraw them from the study, we will keep the information about your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of that we have already obtained. To safeguard their rights, we will use as minimal personally identifiable information as possible.

**What happens when the study is finished?**

All the data collected will be kept securely for 10 years after the study has finished in case it needs to be reviewed again. At the end of the study we will make the study data available for other researchers to look at. Before we make it available we will make sure it doesn’t contain any data which could be used to identify your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of. After this period, their data will fully anonymized and securely archived or destroyed.

**What will happen to the results of the study?**

Once we have finished the study, we will keep some of the data so we can check the results. This study will be written up and submitted for publication in a medical journal. It is likely that the results will also be presented at academic meetings or conferences. Once the study has been published a summary of the findings will be made available. Results will always be presented in a way that no-one can work out that your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of took part in the study. You or your relative can contact the research team to find out the study results if you wish.

**Where can you find out more about how your relative/person you are consenting on behalf of’s information is used?**

You or your relative can find out more about how we use their information, including the specific mechanism used by us when transferring their personal data out of the UK.

• Our leaflet [www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/patientdataandresearch)

• By asking one of the research team

• By contacting the Data Protection Team – 0141 355 2059 or email ggc.data.protection@nhs.scot

**Who is organising and funding the research?**

The study is sponsored by NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde and will be coordinated by the Project Management Unit. This study has been funded by the National Institute for Health Research.

**Who has reviewed the study?**

The study has been reviewed by an independent group of people called a Research Committee to protect your safety, rights, wellbeing and dignity. A favourable ethical opinion has been obtained by the Scotland A Research Ethics Service. The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has also reviewed and approved this study.

**Contact Details**

If you have any further questions about the study please contact the research nurse team on

*[Insert site contact details]*

If you would like to discuss this study with someone independent of the study please contact

Dr Jamie Cooper by email (jamie.cooper2@nhs.scot) or by phone (01224 551817).

**Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet**

**CONSENT FORM**

**Welfare Attorney / Welfare Guardian / Nearest Relative (Scotland)**

Participant ID:

Principal Investigator:

Please Initial box

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| 1. | I confirm that I have read and understood the Patient Information Sheet – Welfare Attorney / Welfare Guardian / Nearest Relative **V5.0 09 January 2025** for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these questions answered satisfactorily. |  |
| 2. | I understand that my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw their participation at any time, without giving any reason and without their medical and/or legal rights being affected |  |
| 3. | I give permission for the research team to access my relative’s/person I am consenting on behalf of medical records for the purposes of this research study |  |
| 4. | I understand that relevant sections of my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of medical notes and data collected during the study may be looked at by individuals from the Sponsor (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde), from regulatory authorities, the University of Edinburgh or from NHS organisations where it is relevant to their taking part in this research. I give permission for these individuals to have access to this data and/or medical records |  |
| 5. | I agree to my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of General Practitioner being informed of their participation in this study |  |
| 6. | I understand that data collected about my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of during the study will be converted to anonymised data |  |
| 7. | I give my permission for a signed copy of my consent form to be uploaded to the University of Edinburgh server, where the study monitors and other members of the trial team from NHS GGC and the University of Edinburgh have access |  |
| 8. | I agree for my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of to take part in the above study  |  |
| **OPTIONAL:** | **YES** | **NO** |
| 09. | I understand that the data provided by my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of can be used to support other ethically approved research in the future, and may be shared anonymously with other researchers |  |
| 10. | I agree to long term follow-up information by record linkage being collected on my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of future wellbeing and treatment from NHS and Government Health Records (such as eDRIS (Scotland), NHS England, Sail (Wales).  |  |
| 11. | I agree for my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of to be contacted about future ethically approved research studies  |  |

I confirm that I am the Legal Representative for

NAME OF PERSON GIVING CONSENT SIGNATURE DATE

NAME OF INVESTIGATOR/DESIGNEE SIGNATURE DATE

***When completed: 1 copy for participant; 1original for researcher site file; 1 copy to be kept in medical notes. A copy of the consent form should also be uploaded to the eCRF.***

**CONSENT FORM**

**Welfare Attorney / Welfare Guardian / Nearest Relative Telephone/Witness Consent (Scotland)**

Participant ID:

Principal Investigator:

Please Initial box

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| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | I confirm that I have read and understood the Patient Information Sheet – Welfare Attorney / Welfare Guardian / Nearest Relative (Scotland) **V5.0 09 January 2025** for the above study. I have had the opportunity to consider the information, ask questions and have had these questions answered satisfactorily. |  |
| 2. | I understand that my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw their participation at any time, without giving any reason and without their medical and/or legal rights being affected |  |
| 3. | I give permission for the research team to access my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of medical records for the purposes of this research study |  |
| 4. | I understand that relevant sections of my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of medical notes and data collected during the study may be looked at by individuals from the Sponsor (NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde), from regulatory authorities, the University of Edinburgh or from NHS organisations where it is relevant to their taking part in this research. I give permission for these individuals to have access to my this data and/or medical records |  |
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| 6. | I understand that data collected about my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of during the study will be converted to anonymised data |  |
| 7. |  I give my permission for a signed copy of my consent form to be uploaded to the University of Edinburgh server, where the study monitors and other members of the trial team from NHS GGC and the University of Edinburgh have access |  |
| 8. | I agree for my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of to take part in the above study  |  |
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| **OPTIONAL:** | **YES** | **NO** |
| 09. | I understand that the data provided by my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of can be used to support other ethically approved research in the future, and may be shared anonymously with other researchers |  |
| 10. | I agree to long term follow-up information by record linkage being collected on my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of future wellbeing and treatment from NHS and Government Health Records (such as eDRIS (Scotland), NHS England, Sail (Wales). |  |
| 11. | I agree for my relative/person I am consenting on behalf of to be contacted about future ethically approved research studies  |  |

Welfare Attorney / Welfare Guardian / Nearest Relative Relationship

Name

NAME OF INVESTIGATOR/DESIGNEE SIGNATURE DATE

**Witness Statement**

I hereby confirm that the Welfare Attorney / Welfare Guardian / Nearest Relative for [PATIENT NAME] has been appropriately informed by as detailed in the patient information sheet.

Witness (PRINT NAME) Date Signature

Designation/relation

***When completed: 1 copy for participant; 1original for researcher site file; 1 copy to be kept in medical notes. A copy of the consent form should also be uploaded to the eCRF.***