

Transparency notice

The Prehospital Optimal Shock Energy for Defibrillation (POSED) feasibility study is a pilot study aiming to determine whether it would be possible to conduct a large-scale trial of defibrillation shock energy delivered during a cardiac arrest treated by UK Ambulance services. The study, funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and led by the University of Warwick Clinical Trials Unit, is now open to recruitment which will continue until March 2023.

Patients attended by SCAS are randomly allocated to receive one of the three energy levels used in current UK practice: 120, 150 and 200 joules. The chances of a patient receiving any given shock strategy are like rolling dice. When attending an adult patient undergoing a cardiac arrest, paramedics deliver all resuscitation treatments as per standard practice, varying only the shock energy from the defibrillator device.

We recently identified during routine checks that occasionally, for operational reasons, research defibrillators had been transferred between ambulances. For this reason, it is sometimes challenging to identify cases of cardiac arrest where a patient has received a randomised shock. We are taking corrective and preventative measures to address this. We would like to reassure the public that receiving a shock from a randomised defibrillator poses no risk to patients.

This study has NHS Ethics approval HRA: 20/LO/1242; IRAS no. 277693