Author's response to reviews

Title: A longitudinal, multi-level comparative study of quality and safety in European hospitals: the QUASER study protocol

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In direct response to your email of 7th September we have made the following two revisions to the manuscript:

(1) details of the ethics committee that granted approval for the study are now provided on page 9 of the revised manuscript

(2) details of how the research participants will be identified and recruited are now provided on pages 18-19 of the revised manuscript. Please note that this is a purely qualitative study and no questionnaires will be used as part of the study - we cannot therefore provide copies as requested and there are no statistical analyses to describe. Within the original manuscript we have, however, indicated the broad topics covered in the semi-structured interview schedules at both the meso-system (page 14) and micro-system (page 18) levels. We have clarified the number of interviews to be undertaken at the micro-system level (page 17); this information is already provided for the meso-system interviews (page 15).