**Author's response to reviews**

**Title:** A Statistical Framework for Quantifying Clinical Equipoise for Individual Cases during Randomized Controlled Surgical Trials

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**Author's response to reviews:** see over
Dear Editor,

Many thanks for the positive comments regarding our manuscript (MS: 6972507195769114).

“A Statistical Framework for Quantifying Clinical Equipoise for Individual Cases during Randomized Controlled Surgical Trials” Nicholas R Parsons, Yuri Kulikov, Alan Girling and Damian Griffin

The following minor essential revisions have been made to the manuscript, as requested:

We have removed the sentence "...the methodology has clear potential as an objective and ethical method of identifying eligible patients, and thereby increasing patient recruitment, by simplifying the eligibility criteria and encouraging otherwise sceptical surgeons to participate in clinical trials..." from the manuscript and replaced with "...the methodology has potential to identify eligible patients and assist in the simplification of eligibility criteria which might encouraging greater participation in clinical trials..." as suggested by referee 2.

As requested by referee 1, we have made minor modifications to sections 2.1 and 2.2 to make clear that there are two options in the UK Heel Fracture Trial, and changed any text where there was confusion in the specification of the interventions between plural and singular. Also a sentence has been added to make it clear that the surgical and conservative interventions, although contrasting, are complex interventions in the sense that their constituent components may differ somewhat between patients. Table 2 has been clarified, to make it clear to what the data refer.

We hope our responses are clear and helpful, but we are happy to provide additional explanation if necessary.

Regards

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