Author’s response to reviews

Title: FRAILTOOLS STUDY PROTOCOL: A COMPREHENSIVE VALIDATION OF FRAILTY ASSESSMENT TOOLS TO SCREEN AND DIAGNOSE FRAILTY IN DIFFERENT CLINICAL AND SOCIAL SETTINGS AND TO PROVIDE INSTRUMENTS FOR INTEGRATED CARE IN OLDER ADULTS

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Answer to the Editor:

1. Thank you for providing information regarding consent to participate. However, we ask that you again reduce the length of the ethics approval section of your Declarations. While you should keep the paragraph that includes the names of each of the ethics committees, the paragraph above should contain a sentence stating that participants provided written, informed consent. The other information provided should appear in the Methods section in instead.

Done. We have removed the paragraph to Methods section:
“Potential candidates will be assessed by geriatricians or other suitably qualified members of the study team and will provide information to each participant about the study and their participation. After each participant has read the participant information sheet and given written informed consent to participate, their eligibility criteria will be assessed and if satisfied, will be enrolled into the study. The participant’s right to decline their participation in the study at any stage without any explanation will be respected. The participant can withdraw the study at any time without giving reasons and with no detriment in their usual medical care. If a participant withdraws from the study after a prior inclusion, this information will be passed immediately to the principal investigator and the procedure for their exclusion will take place” (page 8, line 22-23, page 9, line 1-8)

We have replaced it with the sentence: “All participants who decided to participate in the study signed an informed consent form prior to their inclusion in the study.” (page 19, line 5-6)

2. Thank you for providing your authorship change form. However, we noticed that author Shirley Soledad Alamo was not included in the submission system. Please add them to the system and please ensure that the order of the authors matches in both in the submission system and in the manuscript.

Done.

3. On page 11, please change “past away” to “passed away”.

Done (page 11, line 3).

4. In the trial registration section at the end of the abstract, please include the name of the trial registry and the date of registration.

Done. Added: “Comprehensive validation of frailty assessment tools in older adults in different clinical and social settings (FRAILTOOLS), NCT02637518 (date of registration: 12/18/2015)”.

5. Please remove the cover letter from the file inventory, as it is no longer needed at this stage of the editorial process.

Done.
6. Please note that the Availability of data statement should detail the location of the raw data generated or analyzed during this study. It should also include a statement detailing if the data will be made available to others. For more information and a list of example statements, please see our editorial policies: http://www.biomedcentral.com/getpublished/editorial-policies#availability+of+data+and+materials.

Done. Added: “The datasets generated and/or analysed during the current study are available to any scientist who wishing to use them for non-commercial purposes, respecting the participant confidentiality” (page 20, line 7-9).

7. If you would like the names of the individual members of a collaboration Group to be searchable through their individual PubMed records, please ensure that the title of the collaboration Group is included on the title page and in the submission system and also include collaborating author names as the last paragraph of the “Acknowledgements” section. Please add authors in the format First Name, Middle initial(s) (optional), Last Name. You can add institution or country information for each author if you wish, but this should be consistent across all authors.

It is not necessary to include the names of the individual members of the collaboration Group. Including “on behalf of FRAILTOOLS consortium” is enough, thank you.

8. At this stage, please upload your manuscript as a single, final, clean version that does not contain any tracked changes, comments, highlights, strikethroughs or text in different colors. All relevant tables/figures/additional files should also be clean versions. Figures (and additional files) should remain uploaded as separate files.

Done.