Author’s response to reviews

Title: Effectiveness, costs and cost-effectiveness of chiropractic care and physiotherapy compared with information and advice in the treatment of non-specific chronic low back pain - study protocol for a randomized controlled trial

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Reviewer reports:

Reviewer #2:

The revision of the manuscript was conducted thoroughly and many questions could be answered/clarified. I have some last comments:

208: As you have the possibility to evaluate the direct comparative cost-effectiveness (physiotherapy vs. chiropractic care), this analysis would be interesting as well. If you want to evaluate that, you should mention it here, too.

Response: We have clarified and revised this as suggested by the reviewer – See lines 206-208

245: It is still not clear, what you mean with „pain attributable to a known specific pathology”.

Response: We have clarified and revised this as suggested by the reviewer – See lines 244-246

285: You should add the exactly used block size(s) (4, 6, 8?).

Response: We have clarified what is known about the used block size(s) – See lines 286-289
569: I would recommend to focus more on your strengths. The limitations are very prominent right now. I also would recommend to right down the impact of your study at the end of the discussion (right now, it is at the beginning).

Response: We have clarified and revised this as suggested by the reviewer – See lines 572-599

Minor comment: 430: You can delete „between treatments"

Response: We have deleted “between treatments” – See lines 432-433

Figure: I would recommend to design figure 1 as a CONSORT flow diagram

Response: Figure 1 is revised and is designed as a CONSORT flow diagram.

Other additional minor changes:

1. We changed the order of the treatments stated in the manuscript (consistently following the same order in the text) – See lines 53-56, 237-239, 280-282, 311, 316, and 321

2. We have changed the recruitment period from 18 months to 33 months – lines 57, 471-474, 486, 566 and 603

3. We have slightly revised Table 1