Author's response to reviews

Title: Defining futile life-prolonging treatments through Neo-Socratic Dialogue

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Ms. Cherrylyn Raytos  
On behalf of Mr. Aldrin Ulep  
Journal Editorial Office  
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Research article  
Defining futile life-prolonging treatments through Neo-Socratic Dialogue  
Kuniko Aizawa, Atsushi Asai and Seiji Bito  
*BMC Medical Ethics*

Dear Mr. Ulep:

Thank you for your e-mail dated November 21, 2013 regarding the above-mentioned manuscript. Please find attached our manuscript containing several changes.

We appreciate the Editor's comments, which we have incorporated into the manuscript by revising the following four sentences.

First, we revised the first sentence in the Conclusions section in the Abstract to: “This small study contributed to elucidating the conditions and current problems of futile life-prolonging treatment through NSD” (p. 3, ll. 8-9).

Second, we revised the last sentence in the Background section to: “This small study contributed to elucidating the conditions and current problems of futile life-prolonging treatment through NSD” (p. 5, ll. 2-3).

Additionally, we revised the last sentence in the Discussion section to: “Our study using the NSD method was conducive to generating appropriate answers to the question “What is life-prolonging treatment” and elucidating problems in practice” (p. 31, ll. 2-4).

Lastly, we revised the first sentence in the Conclusions section to: “This small study contributed to elucidating the conditions that underlie futile life-prolonging treatments
through NSD among participants of diverse backgrounds” (p. 31, ll. 6-7). We decided not to start the sentence with the Editor’s suggestion of “Through this small study, we ...” in order to not repeat “through” in the sentence.

We hope that this manuscript is now acceptable for publication in *BMC Medical Ethics*.

Yours sincerely,
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