**Supplementary File 7 Per-Protocol Criteria**

Participants were excluded from the per-protocol analysis:

* If they did not receive their allocated intervention at baseline (i.e. verum splint, placebo splint, or no splint)
* If they were not given all protocol stipulated materials to take home after their baseline appointment, as recorded on the ‘intervention delivery’ case report form (CRF) (ARUK osteoarthritis information booklet, OTTER II joint protection booklet, OTTER II exercise booklet, elastic bands/ pegs as required for exercises, personal exercise guide for all participants, and splint, splint wear hours guide and personal splint wear guide for participants allocated to either Group B or Group C
* If they received intra-articular steroid injections or surgery to either hand prior to the relevant follow-up time point
* If they were given a verum splint by a clinician prior to the relevant time point if allocated to self-management or self-management plus a placebo splint group
* If they report that they purchased their own commercial thumb splint prior to the relevant time follow-up point if allocated to self-management or self-management plus placebo splint group
* If they received any thumb OA splint that was not one of the trial options prior to the relevant follow-up time point
* If they did not attend the 4 week appointment
* If they experienced significant events such as non-trial related illness or injuries, that were considered could feasibly affect their hand function and/or trial outcomes

Note a): different analysis populations were generated for the 8 and 12 week follow-up.

Note b) : The Trial Steering Committee agreed not to utilise self-reported adherence rates to splint wear as contributing to the per protocol criteria due to the lack of evidence related to self -report adherence rates.