

# Newcastle-Ottawa Quality Assessment Form for Cohort Studies

Note: A study can be given a maximum of one star for each numbered item within the Selection and Outcome categories. A maximum of two stars can be given for Comparability.

## Selection

- 1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort
  - a) Truly representative (*one star*)
  - b) Somewhat representative (*one star*)
  - c) Selected group
  - d) No description of the derivation of the cohort
- 2) Selection of the non-exposed cohort
  - a) Drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort (*one star*)
  - b) Drawn from a different source
  - c) No description of the derivation of the non exposed cohort
- 3) Ascertainment of exposure
  - a) Secure record (e.g., surgical record) (*one star*)
  - b) Structured interview (*one star*)
  - c) Written self report
  - d) No description
  - e) Other
- 4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study
  - a) Yes (*one star*)
  - b) No

## Comparability

- 1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis controlled for confounders
  - a) The study controls for age, sex and marital status (*one star*)
  - b) Study controls for other factors (list) \_\_\_\_\_ (*one star*)
  - c) Cohorts are not comparable on the basis of the design or analysis controlled for confounders

## Outcome

- 1) Assessment of outcome
  - a) Independent blind assessment (*one star*)
  - b) Record linkage (*one star*)
  - c) Self report
  - d) No description
  - e) Other
- 2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur
  - a) Yes (*one star*)
  - b) No

Indicate the median duration of follow-up and a brief rationale for the assessment above: \_\_\_\_\_

- 3) Adequacy of follow-up of cohorts
  - a) Complete follow up- all subject accounted for (*one star*)
  - b) Subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias- number lost less than or equal to 20% or description of those lost suggested no different from those followed. (*one star*)
  - c) Follow up rate less than 80% and no description of those lost
  - d) No statement

Thresholds for converting the Newcastle-Ottawa scales to AHRQ standards (good, fair, and poor):

**Good quality:** 3 or 4 stars in selection domain AND 1 or 2 stars in comparability domain AND 2 or 3 stars in outcome/exposure domain

**Fair quality:** 2 stars in selection domain AND 1 or 2 stars in comparability domain AND 2 or 3 stars in outcome/exposure domain

**Poor quality:** 0 or 1 star in selection domain OR 0 stars in comparability domain OR 0 or 1 stars in outcome/exposure domain