

# Appendix F. Quality Assessment Forms

## Newcastle Ottawa Scale, Case-Control Studies

### 1. Is this a Case/Control study?

Yes (continue)

No (STOP) (specify type of study)

### 2. Is the case definition adequate?

Yes, with independent validation\*

Yes, eg. record linkage or based on self reports

No description

### 3. Representativeness of the cases

Consecutive or obviously representative series of cases\*

Potential for selection biases or not stated

### 4. Selection of controls

Community controls\*

Hospital controls

No description

### 5. Definition of Controls

No history of disease (endpoint)\*

No description of source

### 6. Comparability of cases and controls on the basis of the design or analysis

Study controls for (select the most important factor)\*:

Study controls for any additional factor\* (This could be modified to indicate specific control for a second important factor.)

### 7. Ascertainment of exposure

Secure record (e.g. surgical records)\*

Structured interview where blind to case/control status \*

Interview not blinded to case/control status

Written self-report or medical record only

No description

### 8. Same method of ascertainment for cases and controls

Yes\*

No

### 9. Non-response rate

Same rate for both groups\*

Non respondents described

Rate different and no designation

**10. Were potential confounders measured and adequately addressed in the analysis?**

Yes

No

**11. Was the statistical analysis described?**

Yes

No

**12. Did the authors mention missing data in manuscript?**

Yes

No