

### Appendix 3: Quality score [posted as supplied by author]

<b>A. GLOBAL</b>	
<b>A.1. The study question of interest is clearly focused in relation to the reviewed topic</b>	
Yes	*
No	
<b>B. SELECTION</b>	
<b>B.1. Recruitment</b>	
Different places to improve diversity but avoiding excessive dispersion	*
Only one institution/place	
<b>B.2. Eligibility criteria</b>	
Described in detail	*
Not described or not sufficiently detailed	
<b>B.3. Descriptive study of selected participants at intake</b>	
Yes	*
No	
<b>B.4. Number of injectors before treatment</b>	
Specified	*
Not specified	
<b>C. OUTCOME</b>	
<b>C.1. Measurement instrument to determine use or dependence</b>	
Specified	*
Not specified	
<b>C.2. Completeness of follow-up</b>	
>70%	*
<70%	
<b>C.3. Estimates</b>	
Crude and standardised mortality rate	*
No	
<b>C.4. Numerator and denominator reported for estimates calculation</b>	
Person years of follow-up	*
Report of expected deaths	*
None	
<b>C.5. Periods in and out of treatment clearly defined</b>	
Yes	*
No	
<b>D. ANALYSIS AND COFOUNDING FACTORS</b>	
<b>D.1. The main potential confounders are identified and taken into account in design and analysis</b>	
Age and sex	*
HIV	*
HCV	*
No	
<b>D.2. Results on overdose mortality clearly specified</b>	
Yes	*
No	
<b>D.3. Time period results</b>	
Yes	*
No	
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>*/16</b>

Based on the methodology checklist for cohort studies developed by the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network and the checklist for drug related studies developed by the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre, Australia.