

## Appendix 3

### Newcastle-Ottawa quality assessment scale with modifications and assessment criteria described

Question	Risk of bias assessment	Criteria for risk of bias assessment
<b>Selection</b>		
<b>1. Representativeness of the exposed sample</b>	Low	Representative of members of the respective ethnic minority group (census-based whole population sample or cross-sectional/cohort study with high participation rates)
	High	Selected group such as nurses, volunteers
	Unclear	No description of derivation of exposed sample
<b>2. Selection of non-exposed sample</b>	Low	Drawn from the same community as the exposed sample/similar participation rates as the exposed sample
	High	Drawn from a different source to the exposed sample
	Unclear	No description of derivation of exposed sample
<b>3. Ascertainment of exposure</b>	Low	Self-reported ethnicity. Proxy measures of ethnicity (country of birth, country of birth of parents, ancestry) if evidence they are accurate measures of ethnicity
	High	Proxy measures of ethnicity that are not accurate measures of self-reported ethnicity
	Unclear	Method of exposure ascertainment not described OR proxy measure used and no data available on accuracy as a measure of self-reported ethnicity
<b>4. Demonstration that outcome of interest was no present at start of study*</b>	Low	Outcome not present at start of study
	High	Outcome present at start of study
	Unclear	Unable to determine if outcome present at start of study
<b>Comparability</b>		
<b>1. Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis</b>	Low	Effect measures are adjusted/stratified by age and sex
	High	Effect measures are not adjusted/stratified by age and sex
	Unclear	Unclear if effect measures have been adjusted for age/sex
<b>Outcome</b>		
<b>1. Assessment of outcome</b>	Low	Independent blind assessment of outcome or record linkage
	High	Self-report
	Unclear	Method of outcome assessment not described

<b>2. Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur*</b>	Low	At least 24 months of follow-up or shorter period with high event rates (older population)
	High	Less than 24 months of follow-up and low event rates
	Unclear	Length of follow up not reported
<b>3. Adequacy of follow up*</b>	Low	No or small loss to follow up, losses even between comparison groups
	High	Large loss to follow up that has potential to change estimate of effect (determined by worst-case best-case analysis) OR losses uneven between comparison groups
	Unclear	Losses not reported
<b>Other bias</b>		
<b>1. Numerator-denominator bias/linkage rates</b>	Low	Low proportion of migrants in ethnic group <20% OR evidence that missed overseas deaths are low OR high rates of data linkage that are equal between comparison groups
	High	High proportion of migrants in ethnic group AND evidence that likelihood of missed overseas deaths is high and likely to change reported estimates, OR high rates of unlinked participants that differs by ethnic group
	Unclear	No information on proportion of migrants in ethnic group, likelihood of missed overseas deaths, or rates of data linkage

\*Not assessed in cross-sectional studies