

"Newcastle-Ottawa Scale" (NOS) APPLICATION				
Note: A study can be awarded 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	1pt		0pt	
Q1) Representativeness of the exposed cohort	a) truly representative of the average in the community	b) somewhat representative of the average in the community	c) selected group of users eg nurses, volunteers	d) no description of the derivation of the cohort
Q2) Selection of the non exposed cohort	a) drawn from the same community as the exposed cohort		b) drawn from a different source	c) no description of the derivation of the non exposed cohort
Q3) Ascertainment of exposure	a) secure record	b) structured interview	c) written self report	d) no description
Q4) Demonstration that outcome of interest was not present at start of study	a) yes		b) no	
Comparability	1pt		0pt	
Q1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis	a) study controls for		b) study controls for any additional factor	
Outcome	1pt		0pt	
Q1) Assessment of outcome	a) independent blind assessment	b) record linkage Ø	c) self report	d) no description
Q2) Was follow-up long enough for outcomes to occur	a) yes		b) no	
Q3) Adequacy of follow up of cohorts	a) complete follow up - all subjects accounted for	b) subjects lost to follow up unlikely to introduce bias - small number lost - >80 % follow up, or description provided of those lost	c) follow up rate < 80%and no description of those lost	d) no statement
Appendix 1 * NOS APPLICATION FILTERING.				