

APPENDIX 2. QUALITY ASSESSMENT TOOL

Articles are assigned 1 point for each “yes” received on the following scale for a total score out of 8. If a question is not applicable for the study under review, select “not applicable” so that the final quality denominator is lower (e.g., out of 7) for the given study.

Representativeness of Sample

1. Is the target population clearly defined?

Yes No Unclear Not reported

e.g. The target population must be defined by shared characteristics assessed and measure accurately. Some of these characteristics include age, sex, ethnicity, income, etc. Clear inclusion and exclusion criteria.

2. Was either of the following ascertainment method used (must be one or the other)

- 1) probability sampling OR
- 2) entire population surveyed

Yes No Unclear Not reported

e.g. Members of the target population were identified through a sampling frame or listing of potential respondents. This listing must provide access to all members or the defined target population except for exclusions acknowledged by the study authors.

3. Is the response rate $\geq 70\%$

Yes No Not reported Not Applicable

4. Are non-responders clearly described?

Yes No Not reported Not Applicable

5. Is the sample representative of the target population?

Yes No Unclear Not reported

e.g. need to ensure that non responders have similar characteristics as responders (otherwise may have selection bias)

Assessment of Neurological Condition

6. Were data collection methods standardized?

Yes No Unclear Not reported

e.g. Identical methods of assessment and data collection were used with all respondents so that the information for analysis is completely comparable. Standardization of methods not only refer to eliciting information from respondents but also to interviewing training, supervision, enlistment of respondents and processing of data.

7. Were validated criteria used to assess for the presence/absence of disease?

Yes No Unclear Not reported

e.g. or a validated scale, diagnostic tool, survey, etc.

Statistical Analysis

8. Are the estimates of prevalence and incidence given with confidence intervals and in detail by subgroup (if applicable)?

Yes No Unclear Not reported

TOTAL QUALITY SCORE: _____

Quality Score Denominator: _____