**S2 Table:** Risk of bias assessment tool [adapted from Hoy et al (2012)]

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| **Risk of bias item** | **Criteria for answers** |
| **External validity** |
| 1. Was the study’s target population **a close representation** of the population of interest in relation to relevant variables, e.g. age, sex, occupation, health status or other? | * **Yes (LOW RISK):** The study’s target population was a close representation of the national population.
* **No (HIGH RISK):** The study’s target population was clearly NOT representative of the national population.
 |
| 2. Was the sampling frame a **true or close representation** of the target population? | * **Yes (LOW RISK):** The sampling frame was a true or close representation of the target population.
* **No (HIGH RISK):** The sampling frame was NOT a true or close representation of the target population.
 |
| 3. Was some form of **random selection** used to select the sample, OR, was a census undertaken? | * **Yes (LOW RISK):** A census was undertaken, OR, some form of random selection was used to select the sample (e.g. simple random sampling, stratified random sampling, cluster sampling, systematic sampling).
* **No (HIGH RISK):** A census was NOT undertaken, AND some form of random selection was NOT used to select the sample.
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| 4. Did the study avoid inappropriate exclusions? | * **No (LOW RISK)**
* **Yes (HIGH RISK)**
 |
| **Internal validity** |
| 5. Was an acceptable case definition used in the study? | * **Yes (LOW RISK):** An acceptable case definition was used.
* **No (HIGH RISK):** An acceptable case definition was NOT used.
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| 6. Is the study method for measuring drug prescription shown to have **reliability and validity (if necessary)**? i.e. is there an opportunity for misclassification | * **Yes (LOW RISK):** The method is shown to have minimal misclassification potential
* **No (HIGH RISK):** The method is NOT shown to have minimal misclassification potential
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| 7. Was the **same mode of data collection** used for all subjects? | * **Yes (LOW RISK):** The same mode of data collection was used for all subjects.
* **No (HIGH RISK):** The same mode of data collection was NOT used for all subjects.
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| 8. Were the **numerator(s) and denominator(s)** for the parameter of interest appropriate? | * **Yes (LOW RISK):** The paper presented appropriate numerator(s) AND denominator(s) for the parameter of interest.
* **No (HIGH RISK):** The paper did present numerator(s) AND denominator(s) for the parameter of interest but one or more of these were inappropriate.
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| **Summary item on the overall risk of study bias** |
| * **LOW RISK OF BIAS:** Further research is very unlikely to change our confidence in the estimate.
* **MODERATE RISK OF BIAS:** Further research is likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate and may change the estimate.
* **HIGH RISK OF BIAS:** Further research is very likely to have an important impact on our confidence in the estimate and is likely to change the estimate.
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