**Supplementary table 1: Quality control questions used in the evaluation of trachoma studies**

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| **Quality control question number** | **Quality control questions (adapted from Munn [22])** |
| **1** | Was the sample representative of the district or sub-district level population? |
| **2** | Were the study participants recruited in a suitably random way? |
| **3** | Was the sample size adequate? |
| **4** | Were the study subjects and the setting described in detail? |
| **5** | Were standardised trachoma grading methods used?  |
| **6** | Was the condition measured reliably\*?  |
| **7** | Was there appropriate statistical analysis? |
| **8** | Are all important confounding factors/subgroups/differences identified and accounted for\*\*? |
| **9** | Was the response rate adequate\*\*\*, and if not, was the low response rate managed appropriately? |
| \* In the context of this review, we interpret this to mean description of training, certification and ongoing monitoring of graders.\*\* In the context of this review, we consider age and gender to be the key potential confounders for prevalence estimates.\*\*\* We set and arbitrary threshold of >70% for this review. |