**Appendix C**. Modified Downs and Black quality assessment

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|  | Yes =1 No=0 unless specified below |
| Is the hypothesis/aim/objective of the study clearly described? |  |
| Are the main outcomes to be measured clearly described in the Introduction or Methods section? |  |
| Are the characteristics of the patients included in the study clearly described? |  |
| Are the interventions of interest clearly described? |  |
| Are the distributions of principal confounders in each group of subjects to be compared clearly described? |  |
| Are the main findings of the study clearly described? |  |
| Does the study provide estimates of the random variability in the data for the main outcomes? |  |
| Have all important adverse events that may be a consequence of the intervention been reported? |  |
| Were the analyses appropriate? Were the main outcome measures used accurate (valid and reliable)? |  |
| Were the patients in different intervention groups (trials and cohort studies) or were the cases and controls (case-control studies) recruited from the same population? |  |
| Was the sample size adequate?  If quantitative did they use a power calculation? |  |
| If qualitative did they justify their sample size? |  |
| Was the data collection appropriate to the study? Research data=1, Administrative data=0 |  |
| Was there a discussion of relevance of applicability in clinical practice? |  |
| Was the study setting a representation of general settings and if not did they discuss generalizability? |  |