Supplemental File 3 – Risk of bias assessment scale

**MODIFIED** **NEWCASTLE - OTTAWA QUALITY ASSESSMENT SCALE**

 **Risk of bias assessment of pre/post-first sexual intercourse studies**

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**

1) Representativeness of the pre-first sex cohort

a) truly representative of the average AGYW in the community ****

b) somewhat representative of the average AGYW in the community ****

c) selected group of users eg nurses, volunteers

d) no description of the derivation of the pre-first sex cohort

2) Selection of the post-first sex 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 post-first sex cohort

3) Ascertainment of pre/post-first sex status

a) self report plus markers of sexual exposure (PSA, y-chromosome, pregnancy, STI, or similar) ****

b) self report alone

c) no description

**Comparability**

1) Comparability of cohorts on the basis of the design or analysis

a) study controls for bacterial vaginosis ****

b) study controls for age ****

c) study controls for any additional relevant factor ****

**Outcome**

1) Method of measurement of immune mediator concentrations

a) same method used for both cohorts ****

b) different methods used for each cohort

c) no description

2) Outcome measurements are available for all participants

a) yes ****

b) no but exclusions are unlikely to introduce bias ****

c) no and exclusions may introduce bias

d) no description