

Statement—Checklist of items that should be included in reports of *cohort studies*

|                      | Item No | Recommendation                                                                                                                           | Page No |
|----------------------|---------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Abstract             | 1       | (a) Indicate the study's design with a commonly used term in the title or the abstract                                                   | 1       |
|                      |         | (b) Provide in the abstract an informative and balanced summary of what was done and what was found                                      | 2       |
| Introduction         |         |                                                                                                                                          |         |
| Background/rationale | 2       | Explain the scientific background and rationale for the investigation being reported                                                     | 3       |
|                      | 3       | State specific objectives, including any prespecified hypotheses                                                                         | 3       |
| Methods              |         |                                                                                                                                          |         |
| Design               | 4       | Present key elements of study design early in the paper                                                                                  | 3       |
|                      | 5       | Describe the setting, locations, and relevant dates, including periods of recruitment, exposure, follow-up, and data collection          | 3–4     |
| Participants         | 6       | (a) Give the eligibility criteria, and the sources and methods of selection of participants. Describe methods of follow-up               | 4–5     |
|                      |         | (b) For matched studies, give matching criteria and number of exposed and unexposed                                                      | N/A     |
|                      | 7       | Clearly define all outcomes, exposures, predictors, potential confounders, and effect modifiers. Give diagnostic criteria, if applicable | 4–6     |

|             | Item No | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                    | Page No       |
|-------------|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| es/<br>nt   | 8*      | For each variable of interest, give sources of data and details of methods of assessment (measurement). Describe comparability of assessment methods if there is more than one group              | 4–5           |
|             | 9       | Describe any efforts to address potential sources of bias                                                                                                                                         | 4, 6          |
|             | 10      | Explain how the study size was arrived at                                                                                                                                                         | 7             |
| e variables | 11      | Explain how quantitative variables were handled in the analyses. If applicable, describe which groupings were chosen and why                                                                      | 7             |
| methods     | 12      | (a) Describe all statistical methods, including those used to control for confounding                                                                                                             | 7–8           |
|             |         | (b) Describe any methods used to examine subgroups and interactions                                                                                                                               | 8             |
|             |         | (c) Explain how missing data were addressed                                                                                                                                                       | 7             |
|             |         | (d) If applicable, explain how loss to follow-up was addressed                                                                                                                                    | 8             |
|             |         | (e) Describe any sensitivity analyses                                                                                                                                                             | 8             |
|             |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                   |               |
|             | 13*     | (a) Report numbers of individuals at each stage of study—eg numbers potentially eligible, examined for eligibility, confirmed eligible, included in the study, completing follow-up, and analysed | 9, 14         |
|             |         | (b) Give reasons for non-participation at each stage                                                                                                                                              | 9, 14         |
|             |         | (c) Consider use of a flow diagram                                                                                                                                                                | 14 (Figure 1) |

|      | Item No | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                                                               | Page No  |
|------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| data | 14*     | (a) Give characteristics of study participants (eg demographic, clinical, social) and information on exposures and potential confounders                                                                     | 9, 15–16 |
|      |         | (b) Indicate number of participants with missing data for each variable of interest                                                                                                                          | 7, 15–16 |
|      |         | (c) Summarise follow-up time (eg, average and total amount)                                                                                                                                                  | 4        |
| ata  | 15*     | Report numbers of outcome events or summary measures over time                                                                                                                                               | 9–10     |
| s    | 16      | (a) Give unadjusted estimates and, if applicable, confounder-adjusted estimates and their precision (eg, 95% confidence interval). Make clear which confounders were adjusted for and why they were included | 10, 17   |
|      |         | (b) Report category boundaries when continuous variables were categorized                                                                                                                                    | N/A      |
|      |         | (c) If relevant, consider translating estimates of relative risk into absolute risk for a meaningful time period                                                                                             | N/A      |
| ses  | 17      | Report other analyses done—eg analyses of subgroups and interactions, and sensitivity analyses                                                                                                               | 9, 18    |
|      |         |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |          |
|      | 18      | Summarise key results with reference to study objectives                                                                                                                                                     | 10       |
|      | 19      | Discuss limitations of the study, taking into account sources of potential bias or imprecision. Discuss both direction and magnitude of any potential bias                                                   | 11–12    |

|         | Item No | Recommendation                                                                                                                                                             | Page No |
|---------|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| on      | 20      | Give a cautious overall interpretation of results considering objectives, limitations, multiplicity of analyses, results from similar studies, and other relevant evidence | 10–11   |
| ility   | 21      | Discuss the generalisability (external validity) of the study results                                                                                                      | 12      |
| rmation |         |                                                                                                                                                                            |         |
|         | 22      | Give the source of funding and the role of the funders for the present study and, if applicable, for the original study on which the present article is based              | 8       |

tion separately for exposed and unexposed groups.

planation and Elaboration article discusses each checklist item and gives methodological background and published examples of transparent reporting. The STROBE c  
onjunction with this article (freely available on the Web sites of PLoS Medicine at <http://www.plosmedicine.org/>, Annals of Internal Medicine at <http://www.annals.o>  
at <http://www.epidem.com/>). Information on the STROBE Initiative is available at <http://www.strobe-statement.org>.