## B. Quality assessment

Each QA was evaluated through a rubric with three possible values: (Y)es, (P)artly and (N)o. A numerical score was assigned to each possible response value to compute a global score for the global quality of a secondary study: Y=1.0, P=0.5 and N=0.0. The global quality score was computed as the aggregation of the five QAs. To minimize the impact of the quality assessment filtering while providing a minimum basis for the research protocol quality of the selected secondary studies, we decided to filter out all secondary studies with a QA score of 0.

1. Does the search protocol presumably cover all relevant data sources?
   * Y: There is explicit data source enumeration and additional search strategies
   * P: There is explicit data source enumeration but no additional search strategy
   * N: Data sources are not clearly stated
2. Are inclusion and exclusion criteria adequately described?
   * Y: The study includes a clear enumeration of IC/ECs and its definition
   * P: IC/ECs are covered implicitly or simply partially
   * N: There is no evident IC/EC process or they are not clearly defined
3. Does the search protocol include a quality assessment evaluation?
   * Y: Yes, and it is explicitly mentioned and depicted
   * P: Yes, but it is not clearly depicted or it cannot be traced
   * N: No, or it is not possible to conclude so
4. Are primary studies adequately identified and described?
   * Y: All primary studies can be clearly traced
   * P: Primary studies are covered as a summary of the research results
   * N: Primary studies cannot be clearly traced
5. Is there a synthesis process to summarize and support research results and conclusions?
   * Y: Data is extracted, summarized and analysed
   * P: Data is extracted and summarized, but not analysed
   * N: Data is neither summarized nor analysed