

Appendix B: Population Relatedness

Appendix B Table 10. Valve Disease Rubric and Guide.

| Valve Disease | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Domain | Guide |
| Split sample Check | Split sample = Closely Related |
| Index Condition Match | No = Mismatch → Remove from sample |
| Risk Factors | |
| 1. Intervention | Partial match (+/- 30%) = Related |
| 2. Revascularization/Stent (% Valve) | >10% difference = Distantly Related |
| Study Characteristics | |
| Continent | Partial match if no major clinical difference = Related |
| Enrollment Period | Non-overlapping treatment years = Distantly Related |
| Outcome | No match = not validation → Removed from sample |