



CARE Checklist – 2016: Information for writing a case report

Topic	Item	Checklist item description	Line/Page
Title Key Words	1	The words “case report” should be in the title along with the area of focus	1/1
	2	Four to seven key words—include “case report” as one of the key words	26/3
Abstract	3a	Background: What does this case report add to the medical literature?	4-8/3
	3b	Case summary: chief complaint, diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes	11-18/3
	3c	Conclusion: What is the main “take-away” lesson from this case?	21-23/3
Introduction	4	The current standard of care and contributions of this case—with references (1-2 paragraphs)	10-18/4
Timeline	5	Information from this case report organized into a timeline (table or figure)	
Patient Information	6a	De-identified demographic and other patient or client specific information	23/4
	6b	Chief complaint—what prompted this visit?	23-24/4
	6c	Relevant history including past interventions and outcomes	27-28/4
Physical Exam	7	Relevant physical examination findings	5-9/5
Diagnostic Assessment	8a	Evaluations such as surveys, laboratory testing, imaging, etc.	12-27/5
	8b	Diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered and challenges	5-6/8
	8c	Consider tables or figures linking assessment, diagnoses and interventions	1-20/14
	8d	Prognostic characteristics where applicable	15-17/7
Interventions	9a	Types such as life-style recommendations, treatments, medications, surgery	15-17/6
	9b	Intervention administration such as dosage, frequency and duration	17-20/6
	9c	Note changes in intervention with explanation	20-22/6
	9d	Other concurrent interventions	
Follow-up and Outcomes	10a	Clinician assessment (and patient or client assessed outcomes when appropriate)	26-27/6
	10b	Important follow-up diagnostic evaluations	27-29/6
	10c	Assessment of intervention adherence and tolerability, including adverse events	29/6
Discussion	11a	Strengths and limitations in your approach to this case	2-17/7
	11b	Specify how this case report informs practice or Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)	18-27/7
	11c	How does this case report suggest a testable hypothesis?	14-17/8
	11d	Conclusions and rationale	27-31/8
Patient Perspective	12	When appropriate include the assessment of the patient or client on this episode of care	15-17/6
Informed Consent	13	Informed consent from the person who is the subject of this case report is required by most journals	29-30/1
Additional Information	14	Acknowledgement section; Competing Interests; IRB approval when required	1-2/2