CARE Checklist – 2016: Information for writing a case report

**Topic Item Checklist item description Line/Page**

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

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