



CARE Checklist – 2016: Information for writing a case report

Topic	Item	Checklist item description	Line/Page
Title	1	The words “case report” should be in the title along with the area of focus	Page 1
Key Words	2	Four to seven key words—include “case report” as one of the key words	Page 2
Abstract	3a	Background: What does this case report add to the medical literature?	Page 2
	3b	Case summary: chief complaint, diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes	Page 2
	3c	Conclusion: What is the main “take-away” lesson from this case?	Page 2
Introduction	4	The current standard of care and contributions of this case—with references (1-2 paragraphs)	Page 3
Timeline	5	Information from this case report organized into a timeline (table or figure)	Page 4-7
Patient Information	6a	De-identified demographic and other patient or client specific information	Page 4
	6b	Chief complaint—what prompted this visit?	Page 4
	6c	Relevant history including past interventions and outcomes	Page 4
Physical Exam	7	Relevant physical examination findings	Page 4-5
Diagnostic Assessment	8a	Evaluations such as surveys, laboratory testing, imaging, etc.	Page 5-6
	8b	Diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered and challenges	Page 5-6
	8c	Consider tables or figures linking assessment, diagnoses and interventions	Page 5-6
	8d	Prognostic characteristics where applicable	Page 5-6
Interventions	9a	Types such as life-style recommendations, treatments, medications, surgery	Page 6-7
	9b	Intervention administration such as dosage, frequency and duration	Page 6-7
	9c	Note changes in intervention with explanation	Page 6-7
	9d	Other concurrent interventions	Page 6-7
Follow-up and Outcomes	10a	Clinician assessment (and patient or client assessed outcomes when appropriate)	Page 7
	10b	Important follow-up diagnostic evaluations	Page 7
	10c	Assessment of intervention adherence and tolerability, including adverse events	Page 7
Discussion	11a	Strengths and limitations in your approach to this case	Page 7-11
	11b	Specify how this case report informs practice or Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)	Page 7-11
	11c	How does this case report suggest a testable hypothesis?	Page 7-11
	11d	Conclusions and rationale	Page 7-11
Patient Perspective	12	When appropriate include the assessment of the patient or client on this episode of care	Page 7
Informed Consent	13	Informed consent from the person who is the subject of this case report is required by most journals	Page 16
Additional Information	14	Acknowledgement section; Competing Interests; IRB approval when required	Page 16