



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	P1
Key Words	2	Four to seven key words—include “case report” as one of the key words	P4
Abstract	3a	Background: What does this case report add to the medical literature?	P3
	3b	Case summary: chief complaint, diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes	P3
	3c	Conclusion: What is the main “take-away” lesson from this case?	P4
Introduction	4	The current standard of care and contributions of this case—with references (1-2 paragraphs)	P5
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	P5
	6b	Chief complaint—what prompted this visit?	P5
	6c	Relevant history including past interventions and outcomes	P6
Physical Exam	7	Relevant physical examination findings	P6
Diagnostic Assessment	8a	Evaluations such as surveys, laboratory testing, imaging, etc.	P6-P7
	8b	Diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered and challenges	P8
	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	P8
	9b	Intervention administration such as dosage, frequency and duration	P8
	9c	Note changes in intervention with explanation	
	9d	Other concurrent interventions	
Follow-up and Outcomes	10a	Clinician assessment (and patient or client assessed outcomes when appropriate)	P8
	10b	Important follow-up diagnostic evaluations	P8
	10c	Assessment of intervention adherence and tolerability, including adverse events	P8
Discussion	11a	Strengths and limitations in your approach to this case	P9
	11b	Specify how this case report informs practice or Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)	P10
	11c	How does this case report suggest a testable hypothesis?	P11
	11d	Conclusions and rationale	P11
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	P15
Additional Information	14	Acknowledgement section; Competing Interests; IRB approval when required	P11