



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	3 line / 1 page
Key Words	2	Four to seven key words—include “case report” as one of the key words	30 line / 2 page
Abstract	3a	Background: What does this case report add to the medical literature?	2 line / 2 page
	3b	Case summary: chief complaint, diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes	7 line / 2 page
	3c	Conclusion: What is the main “take-away” lesson from this case?	17 line / 2 page
Introduction	4	The current standard of care and contributions of this case—with references (1-2 paragraphs)	10 line / 4 page
Timeline	5	Information from this case report organized into a timeline (table or figure)	1 line / 16 page
Patient Information	6a	De-identified demographic and other patient or client specific information	28 line / 4 page
	6b	Chief complaint—what prompted this visit?	24 line / 4 page
	6c	Relevant history including past interventions and outcomes	3 line / 5 page
Physical Exam	7	Relevant physical examination findings	12 line / 5 page
Diagnostic Assessment	8a	Evaluations such as surveys, laboratory testing, imaging, etc.	18 line / 5 page
	8b	Diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered and challenges	2 line / 6 page
	8c	Consider tables or figures linking assessment, diagnoses and interventions	7 line / 13 page
	8d	Prognostic characteristics where applicable	17 line / 8 page
Interventions	9a	Types such as life-style recommendations, treatments, medications, surgery	7 line / 7 page
	9b	Intervention administration such as dosage, frequency and duration	19 line / 7 page
	9c	Note changes in intervention with explanation	20 line / 7 page
	9d	Other concurrent interventions	20 line / 7 page
Follow-up and Outcomes	10a	Clinician assessment (and patient or client assessed outcomes when appropriate)	27 line / 7 page
	10b	Important follow-up diagnostic evaluations	9 line / 15 page
	10c	Assessment of intervention adherence and tolerability, including adverse events	28 line / 7 page
Discussion	11a	Strengths and limitations in your approach to this case	5 line / 9 page
	11b	Specify how this case report informs practice or Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG)	5 line / 9 page
	11c	How does this case report suggest a testable hypothesis?	14 line / 9 page
	11d	Conclusions and rationale	21 line / 9 page
Patient Perspective	12	When appropriate include the assessment of the patient or client on this episode of care	14 line / 9 page
Informed Consent	13	Informed consent from the person who is the subject of this case report is required by most journals	15 line / 11 page
Additional Information	14	Acknowledgement section; Competing Interests; IRB approval when required	14 line / 11 page

