



CARE Checklist – 2016: Information for writing a case report

Checklist item description		Line/Page
Title	1 The words “case report” should be in the title along with the area of focus	5/1
Key Words	2 Four to seven key words—include “case report” as one of the key words	24/3
Abstract	3a Background: What does this case report add to the medical literature? 3b Case summary: chief complaint, diagnoses, interventions, and outcomes 3c Conclusion: What is the main “take-away” lesson from this case?	3-6/3 8-14/3 21-22/3
Introduction	4 The current standard of care and contributions of this case—with references (1-2 paragraphs)	5-17/4
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 6b Chief complaint—what prompted this visit? 6c Relevant history including past interventions and outcomes	21/4 21-22/4 25-28/4
Physical Exam	7 Relevant physical examination findings	9-11/5
Diagnostic Assessment	8a Evaluations such as surveys, laboratory testing, imaging, etc. 8b Diagnostic reasoning including other diagnoses considered and challenges 8c Consider tables or figures linking assessment, diagnoses and interventions 8d Prognostic characteristics where applicable	13-28/5 4-6/6 4-6/6 4-6/5
Interventions	9a Types such as life-style recommendations, treatments, medications, surgery 9b Intervention administration such as dosage, frequency and duration 9c Note changes in intervention with explanation 9d Other concurrent interventions	4-6/6 4-6/6 4-6/6 4-6/6
Follow-up and Outcomes	10a Clinician assessment (and patient or client assessed outcomes when appropriate) 10b Important follow-up diagnostic evaluations 10c Assessment of intervention adherence and tolerability, including adverse events	12-15/6 12-15/6 12-15/6
Discussion	11a Strengths and limitations in your approach to this case 11b Specify how this case report informs practice or Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) 11c How does this case report suggest a testable hypothesis? 11d Conclusions and rationale	17-26/6 17-26/6 17-26/6 17-26/6
Patient Perspective	12 When appropriate include the assessment of the patient or client on this episode of care	12-15/6
Informed Consent	13 Informed consent from the person who is the subject of this case report is required by most journals	2-3/11
Additional Information	14 Acknowledgement section; Competing Interests; IRB approval when required	1-8/11