



CARE guidelines for case reports: explanation and elaboration document

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Highlights

- This article provides a step-by-step guide to writing case reports that address some of the historic limitations associated with case reports.
- It follows the CARE reporting guidelines and includes examples of good case reporting that will support authors writing case reports for submission to medical journals.
- Systematic data collection from the point of care can help improve the delivery of care to patients and provide useful information for:
 - Clinical research,
 - Clinical practice guidelines, and
 - Medical education.

Abstract

Background

Well-written and transparent case reports (1) reveal early signals of potential benefits, harms, and information on the use of resources; (2) provide information for clinical research and clinical practice guidelines, and (3) inform medical education. High-quality case reports are more likely when authors follow reporting guidelines. During 2011–2012, a group of clinicians, researchers, and journal editors developed recommendations for the accurate reporting of information in case reports that resulted in the CARE (CAse REport) Statement and Checklist. They were presented at the 2013 International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical Publication, have been endorsed by multiple medical journals, and translated into nine languages.

Objectives

This explanation and elaboration document has the objective to increase the use and dissemination of the CARE Checklist in writing and publishing case reports.

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Related Articles

Each item from the CARE Checklist is explained and accompanied by published examples. The explanations and examples in this document are designed to support the writing of high-quality case reports by authors and their critical appraisal by editors, peer reviewers, and readers.

Results and Conclusion

This article and the 2013 CARE Statement and Checklist, available from the CARE website [www.care-statement.org] and the EQUATOR Network [www.equator-network.org], are resources for improving the completeness and transparency of case reports.

Keywords:

[Case report](#), [Case study](#), [EQUATOR network](#), [Health research reporting guidelines](#), [CARE guideline](#), [Timelines](#), [N-of-1](#)

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