

Case Study Template

Case studies are an important technique for sharing best practices with other colleagues. You can use this handy template to write your case study, which should be about 800 to 1,200 words long.

Introduction

Why is this case important?

Set the stage for readers by telling them why you wanted to share the case. It might be because it posed an unusual challenge, because you developed a creative solutions, or something else.

Patient background

What is the patient like?

Give readers the *pertinent* medical/surgical history for the patient. For example, does the patient with a pressure ulcer have a history of pressure ulcers? Does the patient have significant morbidities, such as heart failure or diabetes? Think about what a clinician would want to know to better care for the patient.

Also provide the patient's age and gender, and where the patient was when the care took place (for example, hospital, wound care clinic, home).

Assessment results

What did you find?

Think about the *pertinent* findings you documented when you did your assessment. For example, the location of a stoma that is infected, or the size of a wound. You don't have to include vital signs unless they are relevant. Again, think about what a clinician would want to know.

What is the problem(s)?

What exactly is the issue? Is it a new pressure ulcer? Does the patient not know how to care for his ostomy? Does he or she have a chronic venous ulcer?

Actions taken

What interventions did you and the team do?

Describe the plan of care that was developed for the patient. Be as specific as possible. For instance, state the type of dressing you chose for that stage IV ulcer. Interventions should be based on best practices, so it's helpful to tell readers the basis for your actions. For example, you likely used the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel clinical practice guidelines when you chose that dressing, so it would be helpful to mention that.

Results

What happened after the interventions?

Did the patient get better or worse? It's important to be specific; for example, give the size of a pressure ulcer that was reduced. How long did it take to get results? Was the patient discharged from a facility?

Lessons learned

What would you have done differently or what worked particularly well?

This is an important section. We all know that sometimes patient outcomes aren't what we hoped for, so you'll want to let readers know what you might have done differently. On the other hand, if all went well, you might want to share the top two or three items that you believe led to your success.

The goal is to give readers ideas that they can apply in their practice.

Photos and consent

Before and after photos are encouraged, but not required. Be sure no identifiable information appears in the photograph and have the patient sign the Case Study and Photographic Release Form available [here](#).

References

If you refer to guidelines or other resources you used in developing your plan of action for the patient, please provide information about the source, such as name of article, journal, year of publication, and page numbers. References should have been published within the past 5 years, if possible.

Other information

You also might want to review our general author guidelines at <http://woundcareadvisor.com/author-instructions/>

When you're finished with your case study, email it as a Word document to Cynthia Saver, MS, RN, editorial director for *Wound Care Advisor*, at csaver@healthcommedia.com.