



AFP in Practice questions are designed to get you started in a small group learning (SGL) activity in your practice or with colleagues. Requirements to earn 30 Category 1 CPD points for a SGL activity are: minimum of four and a maximum of 10 people, minimum of 8 hours of discussion in a year, and at least two GPs. Groups may include anyone else who has an interest (ie. practice nurses, community health workers, allied health professionals). A kit with all the instructions and forms you need is available at www.racgp.org.au/afpinpractice. You can also earn Category 2 points based on these questions at *AFP* practice challenge. Visit www.racgp.org.au/practicechallenge.

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Learning objectives

After completion of this activity participants will be able to:

- identify the variables in communication and doctor-patient relationships, which are important in facilitating disclosure of important medical information
- describe the principles of assessment and management of burns
- construct a presentation (verbal or written) on physical and psychological health issues for State Emergency Services (SES) volunteers
- analyse professional and ethical issues when presented with limited information and potential risk to those not present in the consultation
- construct plans for managing disasters both in the practice and the community.

Category 1 – SGL questions

Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC codes: A27; process codes 46, 47

You are aware that communication and the patient-doctor relationship are important for holistic health care. This can be especially important when the patient is not someone who volunteers issues readily.

- * Suggested learning activities: recall a patient with whom the most important medical issue was not initially volunteered or was missed in the consultation. Then in small groups, role play the consultation, with each person in the group playing the patient they recalled. Discuss and provide feedback to each other. One other option is to recall a patient with whom the most important medical issue was not initially volunteered or was missed in the consultation. Consider what, if anything, you would do differently. Discuss in the group the common issues and ways to improve future practice.

Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC code: S14

As the summer fire season approaches, you realise that you have not recently updated your knowledge on the management of burns. You decide it is time to update your assessment and management skills.

- * Suggested learning activity: in your group generate 3–4 cases of burns that you recall, describe the age of the patient, mechanism, location and appearance of the burn. Discuss the assessment of the burn and its management. Then search for guidelines or protocols to compare with the proposed management. One option may be the Royal Children's Hospital Guidelines at www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/cpg.cfm?doc_id=5158.

Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC codes: A27, A98

The local SES volunteers have asked you to provide a perspective, as the local general practitioner, on some of the physical and psychological health issues they may encounter as volunteers in a disaster situation.

- * Suggested learning activity: brainstorm as a group the content you want to cover. Then either outline a 30 minute talk or an article for the practice newsletter. Divide the sections, with each group participant preparing one section. Then collate the sections to produce a talk or newsletter article.

Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC codes: K01, Z05

Mary, the wife of the local volunteer fire service captain, David, sees you for a repeat prescription. She raises concerns about David and the forthcoming fire season. He is the local accountant and is an infrequent attendee at the practice, usually with an acute injury.

Mary reports she is concerned about David; his younger brother had a heart attack last year and she thinks that David may be hiding something from her. At times he seems to cease activity and becomes breathless. When questioned, David tells her he is fine and has refused to let her make an appointment to see you. She is worried he may have heart problems. He is sedentary during winter, but in fire season is an active fire fighter.

- * Suggested learning activity: individually consider the ethical and professional issues in this case. Discuss these issues in the group and the potential ways of managing them.

Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC codes: Z10, Z04, A97

Fires, floods and other natural disasters make you wonder about the plans for your practice in the event of such a disaster. What 'disaster' plans does your practice have?

- * Suggested learning activity: split into two groups. One group brainstorms the effects of a disaster that directly affect the practice location (making the location dangerous or unusable). The other group brainstorms the effects of a disaster in the surrounding community, but not the practice. Write the lists down on a board. Each group can then devise possible plans for the issues identified by the other group. Discuss the problems and solutions as a large group. Compare the new plans to the existing practice plans.