



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 40 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:

- apply a range of communication strategies to assist patients to understand risk and make decisions
- discuss critically how a test/action compares to recommendations for screening tests
- use family history to assist in providing recommendations about appropriate cancer screening
- identify the professional and ethical issues around cancer screening
- prepare a list of resources for a cancer screening program or resource.

Category 1 – SGL questions

Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC codes: A98, B26

The article by Lyndal Trevena in this issue of *Australian Family Physician* discusses strategies for communicating about screening in clinical practice.

- Suggested learning activities:

A woman, 40 years of age and with no past history or family history of breast or ovarian cancer asks you about breast cancer screening. In pairs, role play the consultation. Then discuss as a group the approaches that you took. What worked well? What worked less well? What would you change? What did the 'patient' decide? Then consider the consultation from the patient's perspective. How did you feel? Did you feel more knowledgeable at the end of the consultation? What did the doctor do that helped you decide? What made you more confused? Was the consultation helpful? Did you change your mind during the consultation?

The article refers to decision aids that can be used to assist patients. Break into groups and each try and find online a decision aid for a 'common' cancer. Options could include bowel cancer, breast cancer or prostate cancer. In the small groups, look at the aid and assess it. Then come back together as a big group and discuss what you found, how useful you feel the aid could be and how using it could affect the patient-doctor relationship.

Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC codes: A98, B26

Table 1 of the article by Trevena provides The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners' recommendations for screening.

- Suggested learning activity: discuss as a group how a nonpopulation program screening fits within this framework. Examples could be PSA screening, skin cancer checks, colonoscopies in low risk individuals, or screening for abdominal aortic aneurysm.

Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC codes: A98, B26

Cancer screening recommendations based on family history rely on knowing the family history and then what that means in terms of cancer risk.

- Suggested learning activities:

Audit 10 practice records for the recording of family history then discuss as a group. Do you have enough information recorded to allow you to make an assessment of risk? If so, have there been appropriate screening discussions or recommendations? If there is not enough information, how can this be improved?

There are guidelines for screening for some cancers based on family history. Locate these online or in the practice. Discuss how they are used in practice and any changes that may be required.

Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC codes: A98, B26

Cancer screening can be both a professionally and ethically difficult area in general practice.

- Suggested learning activities:

Discuss the professional and ethical issues around a 'just to be certain' request for cancer screening by a patient.

You have been asked to provide a talk to a group of nursing students on Pap tests for cervical cancer screening. Discuss as a group what pros and cons you would include.

Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC codes: A98, B26

Cancer screening programs require administrative organisation to be successful.

- Suggested learning activities:

Locate the resources for the National Bowel Cancer Screening Program in your practice or online. Discuss how they can be used and how the administrative elements of the program can fit into your practice.

Familial cancer services can be a useful resource for patients at high risk. Locate the local services in your area. What information do they require for a referral? What services do they offer?