



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](http://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](http://www.racgp.org.au/practicechallenge).

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## Learning objectives

After completion of this activity participants will be able to:

- describe methods to communicate difficult or specific information
- identify the types of vaccines that may be appropriate in a range of immunocompromised states
- examine how to apply public health principles to real life situations
- describe how to find and provide up-to-date public health information
- construct a functional shared care model.

## Category 1 – SGL questions

### Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC codes: A70, A78

Communication involves being able to impart what you know in your mind to someone else, most commonly using words. Some things are easy to communicate, some are near impossible; particularly if the content is different to the understanding or expectations of the recipient.

- Suggested learning activities:

The article by Barber et al in this issue of *Australian Family Physician* discusses Ross River virus reports that no treatment has been shown to shorten the duration or alter the course of the disease. This concept, which is true for many conditions, can be difficult to communicate to a patient, as there is often an assumption that 'but there must be something you can do doc'. Role play in pairs such a consultation. Then discuss as a group what worked and what did not work in trying to convey this message.

The article by Ralph et al emphasises the importance of an adequate sputum sample in TB diagnosis. Role play in pairs, describing to a patient how to collect a sputum sample. Then discuss as a group the elements of sample collection and consider what you described to your patient. What communication strategies could you use?

### Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC code: A98

The article by Denholm et al mentions the issue of live vaccines and immunosuppressed people. There are many conditions and treatments that can affect the immune status of a person and the suitability of some vaccines. Conversely it is particularly important to immunise the most vulnerable people with all appropriate vaccines.

- Suggested learning activity: consider available vaccines and determine which are live and which are not. Then consider a range of medical conditions, such as HIV, on high dose steroids, on chemotherapy, Crohn disease treated with infliximab and rheumatoid arthritis treated with methotrexate. What vaccines can you give to such patients and under what circumstances?

### Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC code: A70

Tuberculosis is now seen less commonly in Australia. However, it is still a real public health threat. The article by Ralph et al includes reminders about what's old, and what's new, in TB.

- Suggested learning activities:

What are 'adequate respiratory precautions'? How can you implement them in your practice? How could you help a hostel or other residential environment implement these? Where are 'things' stored in your practice?

The BCG vaccine is discussed, as are testing using Mantoux tests and interferon gamma release assays. Are these covered under the Medicare Benefits Schedule or Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme? What are the practicalities of getting these tests and vaccine in your local area?

### Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC codes: A78, A98

A successful public health system requires general practitioners to think beyond the patient in the consultation room to the wider community.

- Suggested learning activities:

Knowledge of local outbreaks is valuable to a GP in raising the index of suspicion for a presentation, and also appropriate management of cases. As a group, discuss how you find out about outbreaks in your area. Do you share the knowledge? Are there other ways that you could try?

Mosquito prevention measures are an important public health measure. This can be appropriate in Australia, and for Australians travelling overseas. Discuss as a group what information about mosquito prevention measures you would give for around the home in tropical areas and for travellers. What are some sources of further information for patients?

### Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC code: B90

The article by Denholm et al suggests a shared care approach for the management of patients with HIV. The concept of shared care management is not unfamiliar to many GPs, with probably the most common example being shared antenatal care. It is being suggested that there are many other situations and conditions in which shared care may be appropriate.

- Suggested learning activity: discuss shared care arrangements that you have participated in. What worked? Why? What were the issues? What solutions have been found? What are the features you would suggest for an ideal shared care model?