



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:

- integrate new approaches into consultations with challenging communication
- apply up-to-date knowledge in an area of recent changes in evidence into clinical care
- prepare an up-to-date local breastfeeding resources list
- construct a search for information on an area of clinical controversy
- implement an improved system in an area in the practice.

## Category 1 – SGL questions

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

ICPC code: A99–46

Communication in the consultation can be challenging for a range of reasons. These may include the abilities of the participants or the complexity of the information to be conveyed.

- Suggested learning activities:

Consider your consultations with patients with a disability. What has worked well? What has not worked? Discuss as a group what you have found. Are there things that you can alter that will improve future consultations?

A patient has presented as their brother has been diagnosed with haemochromatosis. The patient is requesting genetic testing. What do you tell them in the initial (pre-testing) consultation? You then see them for the test result. Either role play the consultation or discuss as a group how you explain the results, particularly the carrier status or a heterozygote C28Y/H63D result.

### Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC codes: A98, T90

The knowledge required in medical practice is forever changing, as there are new, and at times not so new, findings.

- Suggested learning activities:

Consider compounding medicines and 'off label' prescribing. How do you manage this in your personal practice? How do you manage this when a patient has been prescribed such medicines by another practitioner? Discuss as a group. Discuss what you think of the suggestions in the article by Fois et al in this issue of *AFP*. Would they work for your practice? How could they be improved?

The article on a less common presentation of haemochromatosis reminded you that genetic testing can produce a range of results, each with differing significance to the individual and their family. Brainstorm the range of potential results. Then investigate as a group what the potential significance of each is and the likelihood of a clinically significant disease with each.

Glitazones and diabetes management is a topic where there has been change in recent times. Discuss what you think of the information presented in the article by Yeap in this issue of *AFP*. How does it relate to your current practice? Discuss how you manage these types of issues where information/evidence changes.

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

ICPC code: W19

The article on breastfeeding in this issue of *AFP* reminds you of the value of having a set of referral options and resources that are specific to your local area.

- Suggested learning activity: start or update the local breastfeeding referral and resource list you have in your practice. Share within the group what you have found to be useful.

### Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC code: T90

Diabetes has other controversies in its management. One that has had some research recently is the role of aspirin in primary prevention.

- Suggested learning activity: select a controversy or area that the group has been struggling with in terms of what is the current evidence. As a group discuss what you think or do at this stage. Then search for recent information about what to do. If you find guidelines, can you find more recent information since they were last updated? Discuss as a group what you would do in the future.

### Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC code: A99

Good, functional systems can make clinical practice easier. Bad systems can do the reverse.

- Suggested learning activities:

Discuss how you deal with compounding medicines and the PBS/RPBS system. Does anyone in the group have a system that you feel may be an improvement?

The article on communication with patients with a disability noted that extra time is required in the consultation. Does your practice have a system for allowing extra time at the consultation booking stage? Do other practices? How could this be implemented into your practice?