



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:

- discuss critically the issues and practical aspects of culture in general practice
- contrast the application of commonly used knowledge and skills in consultations with indigenous and nonindigenous patients
- describe some of the contextual elements of your patients or practice
- identify areas where you may be able to improve your cultural competence
- examine system issues in your practice that may hinder the provision of care to indigenous patients.

Category 1 – SGL questions

Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC code: A99

While indigenous health is at times seen as distinctly different to other areas of health care, there are often challenges in communication in nonindigenous consultations related to cultural issues.

* Suggested learning activities:

Think of a consultation that you felt uncomfortable about due to a cultural issue. This could include differences between the patient's and the doctor's culture or a difference between 'medical' culture and the patient's culture. Discuss in pairs how you felt during the consultation. What might have made a difference? Discuss as a group what you would change if you could have the consultation again.

The article by Nguyen in this issue of *AFP* discusses cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity and cultural safety. As a group discuss how you perceive these concepts. Are they relevant to your practice? How do they impact (or not impact) on the patient-doctor relationship?

Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC code: A99

While there is a distinct knowledge and skills set relevant to indigenous health care, there is much overlap with knowledge and skills used at nonindigenous encounters in general practice.

* Suggested learning activities:

The article by Nagel (this issue) discusses 'motivational care planning'. As a group discuss how this compares with your practice? Are there elements that you could use in your practice?

Look at the requirements for a health assessment for an indigenous person. What is different from the requirements for other health assessments? Discuss possible reasons for these differences.

Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC code: A99

Each general practice serves a community, be it geographic or a community of another type; meaning that each practice has its own context.

* Suggested learning activities:

Discuss how many indigenous patients you have in your practice. Estimate how this relates to your community. Compare this estimate to the last census data available at www.abs.gov.au/websitedbs/d3310114.nsf/Home/census (hint – use either the quick stats or community profile options). Discuss your estimates and the data, and reasons for similarities and differences.

What local services may be of particular relevance to CALD and indigenous patients? Share what you have found. What is missing? Can you find these 'missing' services?

The article by Burgess discusses the importance of the context of the patient. Discuss your reactions to the article? Does the article have any ideas that relate to your practice?

Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC code: A99

The article by Nguyen includes a checklist for the culturally competent general practitioner (*Table 3* of the Nguyen article).

* Suggested learning activity: work through the checklist individually. Then discuss as a group ideas for helping improve cultural competence and any resources you have found to be useful.

Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC code: A99

Some practice system issues hinder the provision of care for indigenous patients.

* Suggested learning activities:

Discuss how you identify indigenous status and cultural issues in your practice. What other systems have you seen? What was good about these systems? What didn't work?

One of the elements of the Australian Medicare Benefits Schedule (MBS) is health assessments, including some items specifically for indigenous people. Do you use these health assessments? If not, why? Do these health assessments work or not work?