



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:

- explain to a patient a common diagnostic test
- integrate knowledge of best practice viral hepatitis prevention or treatment into your clinical practice
- prepare a talk to a community group about coeliac disease
- critically discuss issues around prescribing a common medication based on the evidence
- analyse your practice's triage system for potential improvement regarding abdominal pain presentations.

Category 1 – SGL questions

Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC codes: D02–41, –43

Investigation of upper abdominal pain can involve a range of investigations. When ordering tests it is sometimes necessary to explain the purpose of the test and what it will involve to the patient.

- * Suggested learning activity: in pairs explain why you are ordering a test and what it will involve. Some potential tests that may be ordered could be *H. pylori* breath tests, HIDA scans or thallium scans. Then come together as a group and discuss how well the explanations worked and why.

Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC code: D72

Viral hepatitis is an area in which there can be improvements in prevention and treatment. These improvements can be assisted by general practice.

- * Suggested learning activities:

What are the indications for hepatitis A and hepatitis B immunisation?

Who are the populations in your practice at risk of not being adequately immunised for hepatitis A and hepatitis B? Design and perform and audit to identify patients who may benefit from immunisation. Consider how you could act to improve your practice. What are some of the cost implications for both the practice and patients?

Some patients with chronic hepatitis C benefit from treatment. What are the indications for treatment? How could you identify these patients in your practice? How are these patients being managed in your practice? Can this be improved and if so how?

Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC code: D99

Coeliac disease is a condition that is being increasingly recognised in the community. While pain is not necessarily a symptom of coeliac disease, it can be part of the picture.

- * Suggested learning activity: prepare a talk on coeliac disease for a local community group. Start as a group by brainstorming what to cover then in smaller groups come up with more detail for different sections. Come back together as a group and assemble the outline of the entire talk.

Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC code: D86–50

Proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) are commonly prescribed medications, with histamine H2 receptor antagonists now being less used. You receive plenty of information on these drugs and decide to look a little deeper into the drug choices and practise your literature searching or critical appraisal skills at the same time.

- * Suggested learning activities:

Find a research article about a PPI or similar drug, perhaps from PubMed (www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/), from your reading, or perhaps from a drug representative. Then critically appraise the article. A potential resource could be the National Prescribing Service (www.nps.org.au/site.php?content=/html/news.php&news=/resources/NPS_News/news49). Then discuss your findings and what this means for your clinical practice.

Or look up a summary of evidence for a particular topic, for example a Cochrane review (www.cochrane.org/reviews/en/topics/95_reviews.html). Then discuss your findings and what this means for your clinical practice.

Or look for a review on the role of a new drug in this area, such as in the journal, RADAR (www.npsradar.org.au/site.php?page=1&content=/npsradar/content/index.html) or Australian Prescriber (www.australianprescriber.com/). Then discuss your findings and what this means for your clinical practice.

Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC code: A99–50

Practice systems and organisation can both improve patient safety and minimise problems in a practice.

- * Suggested learning activity: consider your practice's triage procedures for patients with abdominal pain. What are the strengths? How could they be improved? What changes/improvements would you make? How can you implement any improvements?