



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.gplearning.com.au

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Learning objectives



After completion of this activity participants will be able to:

- apply a range of communication strategies when discussing potentially sensitive areas
- describe the equipment required for a specific office procedure or the aftercare of a patient who has had a specific surgical procedure
- identify deficiencies and potential improvement in the identification and management of patients who have had a splenectomy
- use a range of relevant patient information sources
- discuss the role of the compounding pharmacist.

Category 1 – SGL questions

Domain 1

Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC code: S02

Some topics are more sensitive to discuss than others. Pruritis ani is a common but sensitive problem, which MacLean and Russell's article in this issue of *Australian Family Physician* considers. MacLean and Russell point out that there can be considerable associated anxiety and beliefs about the cause of pruritis ani, and the problem can be further aggravated by vigorous attempts to clean the area. Raising these issues with a patient can require careful discussion.

- Suggested learning activity: break into pairs to perform a role play. The first role can be that of a person who has a belief about the cause of their symptoms, and as part of the consultation the doctor has to identify and manage that belief. Then swap roles and the 'new' doctor can have the task of explaining to the patient who believes very thorough cleaning is vital, a more appropriate cleaning regimen.

Domain 2

Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC codes: S85, D95

Perianal problems can be assisted by a range of procedures. The article on pilonidal sinus management in primary care by Kitchen in

this issue of *AFP* discusses the management of abscesses and sinuses, while the article by Daniel considers anorectal pain, bleeding and lumps.

- Suggested learning activities:

Consider draining a pilonidal sinus or a perianal haematoma, discuss and make a list of what equipment and personnel are needed. Then consider if these are available and accessible in your practice

A patient who has had pilonidal sinus surgery may leave the hospital after surgery unclear about the care required after their discharge. They then often find it easier to seek this information from their general practitioner. Discuss the desired care postsurgery.

Domain 3

Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC codes: B76, A78, A98

The article by Jones et al on postsplenectomy infection in this issue of *AFP* raises questions about how practices can identify patients at risk and provide appropriate preventive care.

- Suggested learning activity: discuss how you identify such patients in your practice. Can you identify if they have relevant knowledge of their risks? Have they had the appropriate vaccinations? Is there room for improvement, if so how could this be achieved?

Domain 4

Professional and ethical role

ICPC codes: S85, D95, B76

Providing relevant information for patients in a format they can understand can aid a patient in understanding their condition and managing it.

- Suggested learning activity: find relevant patient information for some conditions considered in this issue of *AFP*, such as pruritis ani, pilonidal sinuses and postsplenectomy care. Share what you find as a group and decide if you need to create your own patient information.

Domain 5

Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC codes: A99–50

The article in this issue of *AFP* on pruritis ani raises the suggestion that a topical preparation made by compounding pharmacists may be of use. This may be an area that is less familiar to GPs.

- Suggested learning activity: discuss as a group what you know about compounding pharmacists. What have your experiences been? How do you deal with patient questions about compounding pharmacist preparations? For any queries the group does not know the answer to, see if you can find an answer by sourcing the literature or the internet.