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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release



New online training for general practice psychosocial care of female cancers

The general practice psychosocial care of women diagnosed with malignant cancer is the focus of a new active learning module (ALM) from the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

The *Female cancers and psychosocial care* ALM has been designed to improve primary care management for women diagnosed with a malignancy. The learning tool is now available on the RACGP's online education portal, *gplearning*, at www.gplearning.com.au.

"Women living with cancer face gender specific diagnostic and management issues requiring special emphasis to ensure high quality primary care. Some of these issues are related to specific female cancers, such as gynaecological malignancies, while psychosocial management incorporates specific personal and cultural issues facing women," said Dr Chris Mitchell, RACGP President.

"This new learning activity helps equip GPs with the skills to recognise these specific diagnostic and management concerns for women living with cancer in accordance with evidence based medicine, including gynaecological cancer prevention and screening guidelines.

"Sensitivity and empathy combined with up to date medical knowledge is the key to the successful primary care management of the complex psychosocial issues facing women, their families, friends and carers when diagnosed with cancer," said Dr Mitchell.

By the end of this *gplearning* activity participants should be able to:

- outline the systematic procedures involved in the early detection and diagnosis of female-specific cancers including psychosocial care,
- demonstrate ongoing review of practice policies and procedures in identifying and dealing with barriers to women accessing health care, and
- develop competencies for a multidisciplinary team approach to health care and inter-professional practice, specifically to enable continuity of care for women seeing more than one health care provider.

The activity has been developed by the RACGP in collaboration with Cancer Australia, Cancer Australia's National Centre for Gynaecological Cancers, Centre for Innovation in Professional Health Education and Research (CIPHER), University of Sydney, MDA and Cancer Council Australia.

Suitable for general practitioners and practice nurses, this ALM comprises a predisposing activity, two core activities (totalling 5 hours) plus a choice of three elective activities and a reinforcing activity. Learners must complete both core activities and at least one elective

(totalling 6+ hours). Completion of the activity is approved for 40 Category 1 points in the RACGP QA&CPD Program. This activity has been approved for Women's Health points.

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About the RACGP

The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) sets and maintains the standards for quality clinical practice, education and training, and research in Australian general practice, and represents Australia's urban and rural general practitioners.

Visit www.racgp.org.au.