

<p><b>1</b></p>  <p>Brian, a 13 year old adolescent male presents to your practice with his mother, Mrs C. When you ask him what the matter is, his mother interrupts. She says her son is impossible to live with and has angry outbursts. Last evening he hurt his brother and his mother says she is fearful of her safety. He spends long periods in his bedroom and Mrs C. reports that sometimes Brian says he wishes he were dead. When Brian is questioned he doesn't make eye contact but grudgingly admits his mother's recount is true.</p>	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p>Simon, a 17 year old male, has been brought in by his parents. He has been in trouble at school and been given internal suspension. His grades have been falling over the past year from B+ to D-. Taking a case history was difficult with Simon's mother answering most of the questions and Simon withdrawing or making remarks about his mother's responses. Six months later Simon's behaviour has deteriorated to a point where he is frequently extremely agitated, hardly coherent, very angry, frustrated and irrational. He has been heard threatening harm to his teachers and himself. Do you medicate him against his will?</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>  <p>Jason, a 22 year old unemployed male, presents at 4.30pm on a busy Friday. He is not local and says he is travelling to get to a remote town 80 kilometres away to get away from his friends with whom he has been "chasing the dragon". Over the past year he has been using 4 or 5 times daily but plans to go "cold turkey". Simon is requesting just one script for MS Contin which he knows will help his withdrawal symptoms in the first couple of days.</p>
<p><b>4A</b></p>  <p>Sara a 28 year old Iranian physiotherapist moved to Australia with her radiologist husband, as skilled immigrants, 18 months ago with their daughter. Neither parent has obtained work in their professional field since immigrating, they have no family in Australia. Sara works in part time childcare and caring for her daughter. Ahmed works in a pathology collection centre. Both are pursuing qualifications to resume their careers. You have seen Sara intermittently over 12 months for minor concerns, this time she feels run-down and worried, she requests sleeping tablets for insomnia....</p> <p><i>Continue to card 4B</i></p>	<p><b>4B</b></p>  <p><i>Continues from card 4A</i></p> <p>... Sara is frustrated she cannot work as a physiotherapist, which would help the family budget and allow Ahmed to concentrate on his studies and return to radiology. Sara is softly spoken, withdrawn, avoids eye-contact and has flat affect. She volunteers she desperately wants a brother or sister for Anna, but Ahmed firmly believes that they cannot afford to have another child. You notice a fading bruise on her cheek, she says is the result of a fall. Further exploration of her history is unrevealing.</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>  <p>Margaret is a 35 year old woman who lives on a dairy farm, which she manages with her husband of 10 years. They have three children aged between eight and three years. Over the time that she has been consulting you she has presented repeatedly with soft tissue injuries that she acknowledges have been inflicted by her husband. She believes her husband only becomes violent when he drinks. She is isolated on the farm and says she is unable to leave her husband or to seek support in the local community because she feels ashamed and because her husband is good friends with the local policeman.</p>
<p><b>6</b></p>  <p>Mr Jason A. is a 29 year old man with moderately severe asthma. He works in a pub and smokes 10-15 cigarettes a day. He takes regular inhaled steroids and bronchodilators, but usually requires a short course of oral steroids for exacerbations of his asthma several times a year. His GP finds it very frustrating to see Mr A. and he cannot understand why he will not give up smoking.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>  <p>Stephen is an apprentice electrician who works for an unsympathetic boss. Stephen presents to you with a badly bruised and sprained left ankle after a fall from a ladder. You strap the ankle and advise two weeks rest along with physiotherapy. Stephen is very anxious about such a long period of sick leave as he cannot afford the drop in income and knows his boss will be angry if the accident is recorded as a work-related injury.</p>	<p><b>8</b></p>  <p>Bill, aged 54, has just been diagnosed with epilepsy. He is very anxious that he will lose his job as a bus driver if his employer finds out. He implores you not to tell his employer about his health condition.</p>

<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Mrs D. is booked to have a caesarean section to deliver her second child. She has decided that she doesn't want any more children and gives verbal consent to have a tubal ligation done at the time of her caesarean delivery. After the procedure, Mrs D's husband becomes very upset as he was not consulted about the tubal ligation and Mrs D. states she didn't sign any consent forms for the procedure. They have returned to you, their GP, for advice about the situation.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Mrs P., aged 42, has come to the practice as she suspects she is pregnant. Upon confirmation of her pregnancy, she becomes very upset and requests a termination as she already has 5 children and doesn't feel she could cope with another child. However, she doesn't want her husband to be informed as he is a Roman Catholic and is opposed to abortion.</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Jennifer, a very mature 14 year old, requests to go on the contraceptive pill. She doesn't want her parents to know that she has a new boyfriend and that they are very much in love.</p>
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Mrs R has Jeremy to see you with an ear infection. In the course of the consultation she mentions he is starting school in a few months. You check on his vaccination status to learn that he has not been vaccinated against any of the childhood diseases. Mrs R. is adamant that Richard not be vaccinated as she is fearful of the side effects and has a nephew who "became autistic following his vaccinations".</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Chloe aged 17, presents to you, her family doctor all her life, with vaginal discharge. Tests reveal she has Chlamydia. She states strongly that she doesn't want her parents to know as they don't want her going out with her boyfriend Luke, who is 18.</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Joe has recently retired and he is very excited about going on a cruise with his wife in 10 days time. Examination reveals a mass in his abdomen and tests confirm it is malignant. When do you tell him the results of the tests?</p>
<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Connie, a woman aged 27, requests a referral to a counsellor. She has been seeing one but feels she can't go back to him. After some discussion she reveals that she is upset with the counsellor and stated that "things got physical".</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Jocelyn is requesting tranquillizers because she has been on edge, under a lot of stress and has had trouble sleeping. She is not your regular patient and you suspect she is visiting different practices for prescription medications.</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Ricky, who appears well, is requesting a note saying he is too sick to write an examination tomorrow.</p>

<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>18</b></p> <p>Robert has come to the office for results of neuropsychological and neurological testing. According to the neurologist, Robert has a clinical presentation typical of Alzheimer's disease.</p>	<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>19</b></p> <p>Rosemary does not want her husband (Peter) to know about his diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. The cancer is inoperable and Peter is terminally ill.</p>	<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>20</b></p> <p>Mrs P. wants information about her husband Matthew's condition. Matthew suffered a cerebral aneurysm while jogging 4 days about. He has been declared "brain dead".</p>
<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>21</b></p> <p>Annabelle wants to speak with the treating physician about her mother (Mrs M), who is unconscious and bleeding as a result of a head-on collision. Annabelle and her mother are both Jehovah's Witnesses.</p>	<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>22</b></p> <p>Sally is asking for a DNR order to be written on her mother's chart without her mother's knowledge. Her mother has chronic congestive heart failure and her health has deteriorated over the past 5 years.</p>	<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>23</b></p> <p>Derek requests results of an HIV test which is positive. He does not want his wife to know his HIV status.</p>
<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>24</b></p> <p>Susan is asking for information about her daughter Linda's visits to the doctor's office. Susan suspects that Linda is sexually active and taking the pill.</p>	<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>25</b></p> <p>Sarah is a 17 year-old with a mental age of 5-6 and epileptic. Her mother alleges Sarah cannot understand the causal connection between intercourse, pregnancy and birth. She has the sexual inclinations of a normal 17 year-old. If she was given oral contraceptives there is estimated to be a 40% chance of her keeping to the regime. There would be serious side effects. She is also obese and has irregular periods so that if she become pregnant this might not be discovered early. Sarah's mother would like to have her sterilised.</p>	<p> <b>GPSA</b> GENERAL PRACTICE SUPERVISORS AUSTRALIA</p> <p><b>26</b></p> <p>Mark's father is suffering from Huntington's disease. Mark has decided that, in spite of the fact that he knows that he has a 50% chance of being a carrier of the gene causing the disease, he prefers to live with the uncertainty. In other words, he does not want to have a test to find out if he carries the Huntington gene. (Around 80 to 90% of the population who are in a similar position share Mark's preference). His wife, Kate, however, feels that she would like to know whether or not Mark is a carrier as they are contemplating starting a family.</p>

SHADES  
OF GREY

Ethical Dilemma  
Scenarios

**27**

A woman patient with MS, has been found after attempting suicide and brought to the hospital by her husband where she refuses treatment. Her wish to die can be understood, but her competence may be compromised. What course of action would you follow?

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Ethical Dilemma  
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## DIRECTIONS

Choose a card and discuss the issues which should be considered when dealing with this type of consultation.