

### Skills practice scenario 3 - lung cancer (also a video scenario)

*Remember the 'patient' and 'professional' scripts need to be presented on separate folded sheets for the trio group work. It doesn't matter if details are changed, e.g. gender or age of 'patient' or title of 'professional', if that works better for the group.*

#### 'Patient' - Mrs Margaret Wilson

You are a 53-year-old woman. After a chest infection that seemed to go on for ever, (cough including coughing up blood, breathlessness and noisy breathing) your GP sent you for a Chest XR. After that things happened very quickly, scans, specialist appointments and then off for radiotherapy – 'palliative treatment' whatever that means - you were told something about controlling the disease and helping the symptoms. Well it certainly seems to have worked. No more cough, breathlessness or bleeding and your appetite is better (those Dexamethasone pills seem great) and you've put a bit of weight back on. And that indigestion after the radiotherapy seems much better now and you're not in tears so often.

Still it does stop you in your tracks – you've not had a cigarette since you heard the words 'lung cancer' and think it is time to make some plans. Perhaps you'll finally make that trip to Australia to see Mary, John and the children next year and then Jamaica the year after. You're not quite sure what to expect from this review appointment you've been invited for, but it will be good to get the doctor's advice about plans for the future – he/she'll be pleased about the smoking anyway. She/he may have some other ideas about getting a bit fitter too – you've heard some people can get some free gym or swimming sessions.

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#### 'Professional' – Dr Atkins

Mrs Margaret Wilson is coming for a review appointment after completing her palliative radiotherapy for advanced and inoperable squamous lung cancer (stage IIIa – mediastinal node involvement). If only she'd stopped smoking years ago – you wonder if she has given up now.

You hope she is getting over the radiotherapy now – she had some nasty side effects when you spoke on the phone. It would be good if she's had symptom relief, but you know the long-term outlook is bleak - very few people with advanced lung cancer are alive 12 months after diagnosis.

