

Skills practice scenario 4 - pancreatic cancer

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 - Bill James

Aged 73, local company director, Rotary Club president. It seemed a long time to get to the bottom of what was wrong with you – only when you became jaundiced that the tests showed the growth in your pancreas. After that you had scans – the specialist said that surgery was 'not appropriate' (he did not say why) but that the chemotherapy you have had 'may control the disease' (how long for you wonder). And what happens when it doesn't control the disease? You have heard people say pancreatic cancer is very painful – how will you cope? And what about Mary – she seems to know more than you do - she's changed how she treats you and often seems to be on the verge of tears. You're used to being in control – this is really difficult for you.



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Professional – Dr Singh

Bill James comes to see you on completion of palliative chemotherapy for his inoperable pancreatic cancer. You know his prognosis is poor – he's unlikely to live more than six months but you don't know what he has been told.