

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## New online training to help GPs manage breast symptoms

A new online learning program for general practitioners is set to benefit women across Australia, providing vital information to support GPs in the early detection of breast cancer.

Developed by the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), in collaboration with National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC), the learning module provides guidance in the investigation and management of women who present with a breast symptom.

RACGP President, Dr Chris Mitchell said: “Early detection of breast cancer saves lives and GPs fulfil a critical role in providing optimal care to women presenting with a new breast symptom.”

Launching at GP’09 – The Conference for General Practice – in Perth on Friday, 2 October, the *Managing Breast Symptoms* module, is designed for general practitioners, women’s health practitioners, breast physicians and practice nurses. The module will be available on the RACGP’s online education portal, *gplearning*, at [www.gplearning.com.au](http://www.gplearning.com.au).

“Breast cancer is the most common invasive cancer in Australian women and there is a need to ensure that GPs have a systematic approach to managing the disease. *Managing Breast Symptoms* is an excellent foundation for developing these essential skills in breast medicine,” said Dr Mitchell.

Dr Helen Zorbas, CEO, NBOCC, said the online module is designed to offer accessible, flexible and interactive education for the primary care team.

“More than half of all breast cancers present as a symptom, so it is important that general practitioners use an evidence-based approach to the assessment of women who present with breast symptoms to ensure effective and early diagnosis,” said Dr Zorbas.

The online learning module also provides information on follow-up care for women diagnosed with breast cancer, including psychosocial care.

This active learning module is comprised of six individual modules of approximately one hour each and is approved for 40 RACGP QA&CPD Category 1 points (completion of the activity). Components of this activity can be completed alone for RACGP QA&CPD Category 2 points. This activity has been approved for Women’s Health and Breast Medicine points.

It is available free to RACGP members at [www.gplearning.com.au](http://www.gplearning.com.au). Those who are not RACGP members need to have a *gplearning* subscription to participate.

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### Media contacts

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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](http://www.racgp.org.au).

### About NBOCC

National Breast and Ovarian Cancer Centre (NBOCC) is Australia’s national authority and information source on breast cancer and ovarian cancer. Funded by the Australian Government, NBOCC works in partnership with health professionals, cancer organisations, researchers, governments and those diagnosed to improve outcomes in breast and ovarian cancer. Visit [www.nbocc.org.au](http://www.nbocc.org.au)