**Standardized Patient Stem for Case 2a (Day 2, Yara Lopez)**

Character you will play: the daughter (Martha) OR the son (Matthew) of the patient, Yara Lopez. You are close to Yara, but you live in California, which is several states away from where your mother lives.

Setting: Your mother, Yara, is 73 years old. She lives independently at home by herself. Unfortunately, two days ago she fell down a flight of concrete stairs and has lots of injuries. The most important injuries are several broken ribs on both sides, a popped lung, and a brain bleed from hitting her head. She was taken to the emergency room where she was put on a ventilator through a breathing tube in her mouth and a chest tube was placed to re-expand her popped lung. She was then taken to the ICU for further care. You Heard about the fall and were able to find a flight into town late last night. You’ve been up most of the night catching up on what has happened.

It’s now the following morning. You were woken up by a team of people in scrubs who looked like doctors or surgeons who seemed to be testing your mother’s reflexes before quietly leaving. Your mother’s nurse just gave you a sheet of paper with a big circle on it and a prompt “Enjoys” for you to fill in the things that Yara enjoyed doing before the fall. That circle diagram is on the other side of this sheet. You have some ideas about what’s going on with her care, you know about her rib fractures and that the nurses seemed quite worried about them. You’re in the room with your filled out sheet and a trauma surgeon is knocking to come give you an update on your mother.

**An example of how the conversation might go is below:**

A: ICU attending

D: daughter/son

A: Hello, I don’t think we have met yet—

D: No I don’t think so—

A: I’m Dr. \_\_\_\_, the ICU doctor on call today.

D: Nice to meet you. I’m Martha, her daughter.

A: Oh wonderful! The nurses tell me you flew in last night from California.

D: Yes, I was worried I wouldn’t find a flight. Things happened so quickly…

A: Yes. I’m sorry to meet you under these circumstances. Can you tell me a little about what you know so far?

D: Well, I know she had a bad fall down the stairs…the nurses are very worried about her broken ribs it seems, but there were a bunch of doctors—I think they were doctors? They had scrubs on, came in very early today...they were testing her reflexes and stuff.

A: Oh that was probably our neurosurgery team. Great people. But yeah they round very early.

D: Oh.

A: Yes, so it does look like she had quite a bad fall. She has lots of broken ribs—we worry about that because it makes it very painful and hard for her to breathe, that’s why she has the breathing tube in—along with some bleeding in her head from the fall. Unfortunately, she has had several strokes, just from being so hurt and from being in the hospital laying in bed with bleeding in her brain, which is why the neurosurgery team was taking a look at her this morning.

D: Oh…oh wow. Wow…well I guess that makes sense…I’m glad I was able to get here!

A: Yeah…I’m afraid this is really bad news. She is very very hurt.

D: Yeah… \*chokes up a bit\*

A: I’m so sorry this has happened. This must be really hard.

D. \*tears\* It’s just so sudden, I…\*sighs\* You just don’t see this sort of thing coming.

A: It’s quite the shock, and hard living so far away…

D: \*nods\*

A: Well, I see that you filled out the back side of the form—it looks like she really enjoys your service dog, Penny? She like going on walks with her and such?

D: Oh yes…sometimes I think she loves that damn dog more than me! \*chuckles through some tears\*

A: \*chuckles\* Pets can be such family members huh?

D: You’re telling me!

A: So lots of things have happened, and you might have read some of that on the front of this form—

D: Yes

A: Would you like to know more about what this all means?

D: Yes, yes I think that would help.

A: OK good. We are in the highest intensity level of care in the hospital, the ICU. And in general we really pull for our patients to get through their injuries and all the stuff we are doing to them to help them through this horrible ordeal. So we like to focus on the best case scenario—what the best possible story would be for Yara---every day. And we record that on this sheet. At the bottom we have the worst case, which I think for Yara would be staying here in the ICU for a long time hooked up to machines and ultimately passing away because of all the stress on her body, which she can’t handle. But for today, I think if everything goes as well as we could hope, I think we could probably get that breathing tube out by the end of the week. A lot of this depends on how this stroke affects her big muscle groups, but she is going to need a lot more rehab, specifically rehab especially made for people with strokes, and she will definitely need months of nursing home care. Unfortunately, I’m really worried that she will ever be independent again…she probably will not be able to walk Penny anymore, and she’ll have trouble taking care of her cat at home by herself. She will probably be able to enjoy the foods and drinks she always has, with time, but she will need some form of assisted living or intense care at home when she finishes her therapies when she leaves us in about 2 months.

D: Oh wow…I mean this…I knew it sounded serious, but two months? In the hospital?

A: I think so…It could be a little less, it could be a little more—it’s hard to tell at this point, and it really comes down to just how bad those strokes are and how well she deals with all of her broken ribs.

D: \*blinking back more tear\* This is really…I just…wow.

A: It’s a lot to take in at once.

D: Yes, yes it is.

A: Again, I’m so sorry you’re here like this…we are going to take great care of her.

D: Thank you. Thank you so much. It was nice to meet you.

A: Nice to meet you too. Let us know if you have any questions.

D: Thank you.