**Standardized Patient Stem for Case 2b (Day 10, 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: You’ve been watching over your mother, Yara, while she struggles to recover from a bad fall that happened 10 days ago. You have been staying with a few friends who live in the area close to the hospital, but you spend many nights in the hospital with your mother. She wasn’t able to have the breathing tube removed because she needed the ventilator to breathe due to all her rib fractures. She now has a tracheostomy (breathing through a tube in her neck) and a feeding tube in her abdominal wall that were placed 5 days ago. After those were placed she was on a regular hospital floor for recovery and she seemed to be doing better—she was much more awake, though she still hadn’t really been able to communicate with you besides opening her eyes and mouthing things to you. She can’t move her limbs much either since the stroke she had on day 2. Unfortunately, she developed a pneumonia (infection in her lungs) which brought her back to the ICU for antibiotics and more time on the ventilator through the tracheostomy. She was doing better, but two days ago she started having belly pain and lots of diarrhea. The docs told you this was an infection too, called “C. dif”, and they changed the antibiotics she is on. Last night you got very little sleep because Yara’s blood pressure kept getting low and the resident and nurse hovered around her bed often, checking her belly and reading her vital signs.

It’s now early morning, 10 days after Yara fell. She just got an X-ray, and the resident looked quite concerned. You think you heard the word “perforation” mentioned, but you aren’t sure. The ICU doctor, whom you hadn’t seen since the third day of her admission, knocks and comes in to give you another update.

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

A: ICU attending

D: Yara’s Daughter/son

A: Hello, are you Martha?

D: Yes, oh hello doc.

A: It’s been a bit; I’m not sure you remember me from when your mom was first admitted?

D: Oh yes, I definitely do! How are you?

A: Oh I’m doing fine, thank you. So I know things have been pretty busy this morning with your mom. What do you understand about what’s going on?

D: Well…I know her blood pressure wasn’t good and she was having pain, so they gave her more through the IV and got an X-ray. Honestly I’m not too sure but I thought I heard someone say ‘perforated’ which sounds scary…

A: Yeah…you are unfortunately exactly right. It does look like a part of her bowel is leaking—that’s what we mean when we say ‘perforated’—and that’s making her very very sick. I’m really sorry to tell you this, **but I’m afraid this is really bad news**.

D: I just…I mean she seemed to be doing so much better…? After they switched her antibiotics and stuff.

A: Yes it did look that way. Since her fall we’ve been on this path to recovery and getting her better. I know I wasn’t here the past few days, but my partners have filled me in, and I know it’s been a bumpy road. Like you said, it seemed we were getting better the past two days. But with what’s happened this morning, **we are in a different place now**.

D: I see…

A: **Would you like to know what this means**?

D: Yes-yes, what can we do?

A: Well, we have a decision to make, between going to the operating room this morning for a big surgery to try to fix where this leak is coming from in her bowels, or deciding instead to focus on your mom’s comfort. Let’s talk about surgery first.

[describes surgery option]

So next I’d like to talk about not doing surgery, and instead focusing on her comfort.

[describes comfort focused care option]

A: I know that was a lot to take in…