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Scenario 5 – Softskill three

Ilinca, an 8-year-old girl is admitted with her mother due to persistent abdominal pain, constipation, and intermittent rectal bleeding. The mother administered several treatments without any improvement for approximately 1 year. Thus, being very concerned about her daughter's condition, she came to the emergency department with her daughter and admitted her. The pediatrician enters the room, and with a calm and warm voice, she says:

- Hello, I am doctor Oana, and I am here to make you feel better.
- Hello doctor. I am Mrs. Popescu, and this is my daughter Ilinca.
- Hello, Ilinca. You are a very nice girl.
- Hello, doctor.
- Mrs. Popescu, please tell me what is the problem?
- Doctor, I am very concerned because my daughter complains of abdominal pain for approximately 1 year. She also suffers from constipation, and lately, she had 2 episodes of rectal bleeding.
- Mumm, you look very concerned and I understand you. Ilinca, please tell me, how you would describe the pain?
- It feels like it's stabbing me in the lower part of my tummy.
- How often does it occur?
- Almost every week.
- I see. And what else do you feel?
- I feel the urgent need to go to the bathroom, but I can't...
- It hurts more when you poop?
- Yes, it hurts very much.
- And what about the bottom bleeding? Was it associated with pooping? Can you describe it?
- Yes, it was after pooping. I noticed fresh blood on the toilet paper.
- So, abdominal pain, constipation, the urgent need to go to the bathroom, and rectal bleeding.

The mother asks almost crying:

- Please, doctor, tell me, is it severe? What can be?
- Calm down, Mrs. Popescu! It doesn't seem very serious, but I have to run some additional tests.

After different laboratory tests, an abdominal ultrasound, a surgical consult, and a barium enema, the pediatrician returns to Ilinca's room smiling.

- Ilinca...Mrs. Popescu, I am very glad to tell you that it isn't anything severe. It seems that you have a part of your bowel larger and longer than normal, but with adequate diet associated with medication, it will be better.

Suddenly, Ilinca expresses a large smile on her face.

- Ilinca, you look very happy about what I just told you. You look as if you want to give me a hug.
- Yes, doctor.

And she runs into the doctor's arms. Afterwards, the doctor explained both Ilinca and her mother the type of food that she must consume, and the medication that she recommends to help her feel better.

- I want to be sure I explained everything clearly. Ilinca, can you explain it back to me so I can be sure I did?



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- Yes. I must eat a lot of fresh fruits and vegetables, no bananas, no chocolate, and I must take the medication as my mother says.
- Very good Ilinca.

Mrs. Popescu says:

- Thank you, doctor. I appreciate very much everything you have done for us.



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