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Scenario 7 – Softskill four

Nicole, a 5-year-old girl was recently diagnosed with leukemia. She is now admitted with her mother in the Pediatric Hematology and Oncology Department in order to begin the chemotherapy. The pediatrician tries to provide the best care he can.

- Mrs. Ionescu, I am very sorry about you daughter's diagnosis. I can only imagine how you feel. The mother starts to cry:

- I am very scared because I don't want to lose my daughter. She is such a beautiful and nice girl. Since I found out that she has leukemia, I haven't been able to sleep at all. I cry every time she is not around or when I am alone because I don't want to upset her more.
- I would feel the same way.

The pediatrician goes next to the mother, takes her hand and keeps a close eye contact with her.

- You know that the therapy will be long and burdened by multiple side-effects, but I assure you that I will be there for you at every step.
- Yes, I am afraid that she won't tolerate all these drugs and their side-effects. I know that it will be very hard, and I am afraid that I won't be able to encourage her and make her feel better. It feels like my heart want to go outside my chest....
- I can see how that would worry you, and you must be tired after staying up so many nights.
- Yes, I am tired, but I can't sleep. I keep thinking that life is not fair, that my little daughter shouldn't have to go through such pain. And I feel useless...
- You have every right to feel sad and disappointed by life, but I am convinced that we will be able to help Nicole. You must gather your resources because together we must help Nicole.
- I know doctor, and I appreciate very much everything you are doing for us. Thank you!
- Together we can succeed. I am here for you and I will help you however I can.
- Thank you.



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