

Supplemental Digital Appendix 1

Scenario: Family Matters^a

Station name	Waiting area, adjacent to the intensive care unit (ICU)
Issue	Dealing with upset family members
Presenting situation	The medical student has been asked to meet with family members of a patient in the ICU, and to address their questions and concerns.
Activities	Interaction between the medical student and the family members
Characters	Medical student Spouse of patient (age 60–70) Son or daughter of patient (age 30–40)
Time allotted to read scenario	2 minutes
Time allotted for encounter	5 minutes
Discussion and feedback	15 minutes

Medical Terms Used:

Kidneys: The *kidneys* are organs that serve several essential regulatory roles. They serve the body as a natural filter of the blood, and remove wastes.

Acute kidney injury: a rapid loss of kidney function

Serum creatinine level: a blood test which indicates the health of the kidneys

Dialysis: an artificial replacement for lost kidney function in people with severe kidney injury

Scenario: Family Matters

Instructions to the medical student

You are a 3rd-year medical student on rotation in the intensive care unit (ICU).

One of the patients on the service is a 65-year-old who is 3 days post-op from elective surgery to remove gallstones. The post-operative course has been complicated by acute kidney injury, the serum creatinine is increasing, and the patient might require dialysis.

The nurse has asked you to speak with the family (spouse and son/daughter) because they appear upset and concerned. The other members of the medical team are not available at the moment.

Scenario: Family Matters

Instructions to standardized patient (spouse of patient)

You are between age 60-70 (female?), and have been married to Mr. Smith for 40 years.

You have one child living out of town.

Your spouse has had no major health issues until now, and you are obviously concerned.

You have confidence in the doctors and nurses looking after your spouse, and ask questions to the medical student seeking reassurance:

“This was a routine operation, did anything go wrong?”

“Are you sure about this diagnosis of kidney injury?”

“It’s not very serious, is it?”

Your son/daughter (only child) has just arrived from out of town (Toronto?) and is more demanding of you and the medical team with questions.

Scenario: Family Matters

Instructions to standardized patient (son or daughter)

You are between ages 30–40, the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Smith.

You are a single, professional (accountant?), living out of town (Toronto).

You are upset about the course of events after what you expected was “routine surgery.”

You want answers!

You are irritated with your mother who you think is somewhat complacent and passive in behavior.

Comments to your mother:

“I thought you said this was going to be a simple operation!”

“Why didn’t you tell me earlier about what was going on!”

Comments to the medical student:

“Nobody warned us that this could happen!”

“Why did this happen?!”

“What did you do to him? His kidneys were perfectly fine before!”

^a The Appendix presents information and instructions for “Family Matters,” one of the several teaching modules utilized at McGill University Faculty of Medicine to give medical students brief, emotionally confronting, and ethically challenging clinical scenarios based on real events reported to faculty. These modules are used to help students develop resilience in response to difficult clinical situations, as part of their professional identity formation. Medical students engage in these scenarios with standardized patients at the McGill Simulation Centre in six afternoon sessions throughout the year. Each student plays a role in one scenario and observes two other scenarios.