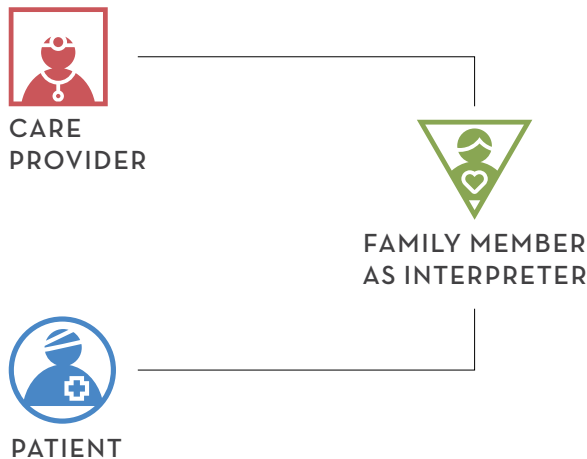

















# Language Barrier Scenario: how communication breaks down

A mock scenario to illustrate the potential compromise when family interprets during informed consent








-  Hello, Mrs. Smith, how are we feeling today?
-  Hello, doctor. No further response. Looks at daughter
-  Are you Mrs. Smith's daughter? Does she speak any English?
-  Yes, I'm her daughter. She doesn't speak English but I can interpret for her.

-  Great - that'll make this so much faster. I need to ask your mother to consent to palliative radiation treatment
-  OK
-  Can you explain to your mother that the cancer in her liver has not responded to the chemotherapy.
-  Ma, the medicine they've been giving you to make your liver strong again hasn't been enough.
-  Oh, no? I was told that if I'm feeling tired it must be working, and I've been feeling so tired lately.
-  I know, Ma, but it's just not been enough.
-  What did she say?
-  She said she's been feeling so tired lately.
-  Yes, it is normal to feel fatigue.
-  Ma, it's normal to feel tired.
-  Can you please tell her that our only course of treatment now is to use

# Language Barrier Scenario: how communication breaks down

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palliative radiation treatment to try to control the pain.

-  Ma, the doctor wants you to try a different treatment to see if that will help. It will also help reduce the pain. Instead of the needle, they'll give you radiation.
-  Oh, that's good. I didn't like the needle. If the doctor and you think the radiation is better... What is radiation?
-  She said yes to the radiation.
-  Was your mother asking anything more?
-  No, she was just saying that she didn't like the needles from the chemotherapy.