

## Improvisation Game

Read the rules aloud, and then read the scenario on the back of this sheet.

### Rules

- After the scenario is read aloud, 7 volunteers will become the initial participants and adopt their chosen roles. The possible roles in this scenario are Ana, Marie, Charlie, Natalie, Sean, Dr. Smith, and Rosalie. Everyone else will be, at first, an onlooker.
- Each person should express the wishes, interests, and concerns of their chosen character. For example, if you are a physician, think: What are my professional obligations as a physician? What are the short-term and long-term considerations for me in this situation, given my role? You don't need to have a fully formed opinion of the case, but you should express moral concerns that you have from your vantage point.
- While the initial volunteers express their moral viewpoints, the onlookers should consider whether they agree or disagree with what is being expressed. If you, as an onlooker, disagree with the reasons or conclusions offered by one of the participants, then you have the option of **tapping out** the person with whom you disagree (by tapping on the shoulder).
- When tapped out, the participant should finish his/her sentence (if mid-sentence), and then step back to become an onlooker. The person who did the tapping out then adopts the role that has just been vacated. For example, if the patient gave a reason for her moral preference that I think is problematic, then I can tap her on the shoulder, and I would then become the patient in the scene. You can contradict what the prior participant said in that role.
- At least 30 seconds should transpire between persons being tapped out, so the scene has some opportunity to develop before it changes. This process of playing out the scene, tapping out, and playing out the scene should continue throughout the time period.

## Scenario

*You can fill in missing details as necessary as you play out the scene.*

Ana Henderson was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia when she was 12. In order to survive her radiation and chemotherapy, she ultimately needed a bone marrow transplant, but no one in her family was an eligible donor. The family worried that she would die before a donor became available. Ana's parents, Marie and Charlie, therefore decided to become pregnant again; their hope was that the new child would be an eligible donor for Ana. They were lucky: The new child, named Natalie, was a match. A little over a year after her birth, physicians started extracting marrow from Natalie in order to save her sister. Ana's road to recovery has been rocky, though, and Natalie has been subjected to numerous extractions and medical tests. Now, at age 6, Natalie is expressing some anger and resentment about being in the hospital all the time. She hates being stuck by needles. Ana and Natalie's oldest brother, Sean, is very close to Natalie, and he believes that her wishes should be respected. The physician, Dr. Smith, and a nurse, Rosalie, are now speaking with the Hendersons to figure out the best course of action. Ana needs another marrow transplant, but Natalie's hesitation has made the medical team uncomfortable. The room is tense, with unanswered ethical questions hovering. What should be done?

*Note: This scenario is loosely based on the true story of the Ayala family.*