[Beginning of 2021-07-01-MarianPatiño1.mp4]

*Interviewer:* Very well. Then, what country are you from?

*Interviewee:* Colombia

*Interviewer:* How long have you been to the United States?

*Interviewee:* Seventeen years.

*Interviewer*: You usually communicate in English, right?

*Interviewer:* Yes.

Interviewer: When you visit a physician, do you usually look for a Spanish

speaking physician, or not?

*Interviewee:* No.

*Interviewer:* Do you have any experience with Spanish speaking physicians

here in the United States?

*Interviewee:* Actually, very little.

Interviewer: Very well, and, in general, your experience with medical

appointments here has been positive, negative, how did it go?

Interviewee: Positive, but physicians here are a little too technical, but I don't

have any problem to understand them.

*Interviewer:* What do you mean by technical?

*Interviewee:* That they tell you things with a language that's really-technical,

yes, how can I put it? Pretty-

Interviewer: Specialized.

*Interviewee:* The way it is, specialized, yes. The way it is.

*Interviewer:* Ok, at first, when you went to an appointment were your

expectations different? Were you attended the way you expected to

or it was different?

www.thelai.com Page 1 of 4

*Interviewee:* No, it has always actually been the way I have expected.

Interviewer: Do you feel you were able to communicate well with the

physicians?

*Interviewee:* Yes.

*Interviewer:* Recalling your experiences, one of them, is there anything that

would have improved your experience, the communication with

the physician?

*Interviewee:* What happens is that, they are so objective, they forget how to be

warm and the I think that they neglect that patient's service. They

lack-

*Interviewer:* Would you like it to be more personalized?

*Interviewee:* Yes, a little more-

*Interviewer:* What guestions or what could they have done to make the

experience, the communication perfect?

*Interviewee:* Well, for example, if I'm in pain, I expect them to be more

sympathetic towards me and say "ok", not, "I'm in pain" and they stay quiet, with no expression in their faces, they don't express any emotions as if they don't feel a bit what the patient is suffering.

Interviewer: What would you like to hear, what question would you like to have

heard? "How are you feeling? I understand that you are-

*Interviewee:* Yes, like "I understand you, in spite of-" For example, "My

stomach hurts" "Ok, tell me where it hurts", ""Right here", "but, how do you feel?", then I say "It hurts a lot" and the physician is there with the attitude of, my job is to tell you what you have to do, but it's not my job to tell you "I feel your pain, I understand that for you is really painful, let's try to help you handle that". In my country, for example, we do have that connection doctor-

patient.

*Interviewer:* Very well, any other commentary?

*Interviewee:* No, I think it's more like trying to be in the patient's shoes.

www.thelai.com Page 2 of 4

*Interviewer:* Ok, thank you very much, excellent.

[End of 2021-07-01-MarianPatiño1.mp4] [Beginning of 2021-07-01-Marian Patiño1.mp4]

*Interviewer:* Ready.

Interviewee: Ready, for example, from my experience, I have suffered all my

life with the topic of weight management, then it's very difficult for me to lose weight. I do lots of things and have seen several physicians with different specialties; I feel that particularly with patients with this issue, which is not a topic, so medically speaking life or death, but it is a topic that affects you at a personal level, they think that because of the fact that I'm not losing weight fast, then all of a sudden, I'm cheating. I feel as if these physicians- the rule doesn't work anymore, I mean, either I'm eating a lot or I'm not exercising enough, or I'm not doing what I'm supposed to; then, it sound very easy for them to say "No, the thing is that she's doing something wrong and is not following the protocol", but they never consider that it's a matter of, well, being in the patient's shoes and say, "Well, let's try other strategies", that never happens

to me. So, you end up switching physicians.

*Interviewer:* And, does that help? Does switching physicians work?

*Interviewee:* Yes, sometimes, finally you find the right person, but after trying

many times in different places.

Interviewer: And do you feel it's different in Colombia?

*Interviewee:* Oh, in Colombia, the matter is completely different. The physician

takes your side, he helps you, he gives you more stimulation so that the person continues with the program, or with the medicine or other things; I feel that in that sense, physicians make a bigger

effort to understand the patient.

*Interviewer:* Ok, thank you very much.

*Interviewee:* That's all.

[End of 2021-07-01-Marian Patiño1.mp4]

www.thelai.com Page 3 of 4

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www.thelai.com Page 4 of 4