

Before You Watch **Discussion Questions**

1. Do you know anyone who has asthma?
2. What do you know about asthma?
3. What questions do you have about asthma? With the person next to you, say or write 1 or 2 questions.
4. In the story, a character named Mario is poor. He doesn't have health insurance. What do you think he can do?
5. Mario has other problems too—love problems. His girlfriend left him and he's very sad. What are your suggestions for Mario?
6. One more question: The title of the episode is *Asthma: The Soap Opera*. We talked a little about asthma, but what's a soap opera? Soap + opera... What do you think?

**Let's watch *Asthma: The Soap Opera*.
Let's find out what a soap opera is, and see what Mario does!**

After You Watch

Discussion Questions

The Experts

Mario interviews people who have asthma—“experts”—to learn about the illness.

- What makes them experts? What can they tell Mario that a doctor might not be able to tell him? What can a doctor tell Mario that a person with an illness might not know?

Affordable Health Care

Mario is poor but he learns that he can take his son to a doctor.

- How can you get free or low-cost health insurance in New York City? Who can help you choose the right program?

Managing an Illness

The doctor tells Mario that he needs to manage his son’s illness. Mario looks confused by the word “manage.”

- What does it mean “to manage an illness”? What do you need to know? How do you manage an illness?

Mario’s Complicated Life

Angela leaves Mario because her father doesn’t accept him. Then, Mario’s ex-girlfriend Maria comes back. Maria helps Mario find a doctor, but she doesn’t stay with Mario because he is still in love with Angela. Also, the doctor falls in love with Maria. In the end, Angela returns to Mario because her father hears that he is a good man.

- What do you think about Mario? What do you think about Angela? What do you think about Maria?