

## **Kathleen Medical Status, Thursday, 11/20/2014 – Hospital via Emergency Room!**

If you are just reading this, please consider reviewing the Kathleen Medical Status, 11/12/2014, 9/18/2014, 8/26/2014, 8/17/2014, 7/25/2014, 6/28/2014, 6/13/2014, 6/8/2014, 5/26/2014, 5/10/2014, 5/4/2014, 4/29/2014, 4/25/2014 and 4/21/2014, previously sent out and posted on FACEBOOK as well as on a web page at <http://www.pfmc.info/KathleenHealth.htm>.

As we reported on 11/12/2014, Kathleen came home from PowerBack Rehabilitation, Voorhees, NJ, Room 224, on Tuesday, 11/11/2014. She was doing great at home with Bayada Home Care Registered Nurse (RN), Physical Therapy (PT) and wound care to continue improving her ability to care for herself and move around pretty much unassisted.

We had been able to visit our Primary Care Physicians, Dr. Vijay K. Kalola and Jayesh B. Patel, Primary Care Associates, on Thursday, 11/13/2014. They renewed all our home medications and confirmed our treatment plan.

On Monday, 11/17/2014, we visited our Podiatrist, Dr. Elena K. Wellens, and she debrided the lower left leg wound. She renewed our understanding of the way the wound care should be done. We are to see her every two weeks for her to check and possibly debride the wound for improved healing. She said not to expect swimming before Christmas.

We visited DDS Mike Bundy on Tuesday, 11/18/2014, and found that he and his cleaning technician would not work on Kathleen unless she was without her blood thinner Xarelto for at least two days. We are rescheduled for Monday, 12/8/2014.

Kathleen was in great shape and we dealt with dinner and Tuesday evening television. She went to bed about midnight.

Between 3 AM and 4 AM she woke me to help her get up for the bathroom. As I approached her sitting on the edge of the bed she reached for my hand but fell back on the bed. She had difficulty sitting up even with my help. She had even more difficulty standing up and shuffling to the bathroom. She was unable to pivot to the commode and I had to lift her. The trip back to bed was on her rollator seated and rolling. She got into bed but was shivering profusely. I had to cuddle her for nearly an hour in mutual efforts to get her to stop shivering.

At 8:45 AM, I tried to wake her up for PT and she needed to visit the bathroom. Same thing as earlier. The PT Bonnie arrive shortly after 9 AM and worked with me in the bathroom, during the roll to bed, getting Kathleen back in bed, taking vital signs and again checking motion / strength in her extremities. She did not show evidence of a stroke and her vitals were OK. PT Bonnie said she would come back in the PM to see if Kathleen was better. I fed her breakfast in bed and encouraged her to rest for a while more.

Around NOON, I checked on her and she wanted to visit the bathroom again. Same as earlier. I called Dr. Patel and he wanted to see her. I told him I probably could not get her into one of our vehicles. He said to call 911 and get her to an Emergency Room (ER). I did that. The Rescue Squad took her to the Virtua West Jersey Hospital Berlin ER because a stroke needed to be completely ruled out with a CT scan. They called in the MRI technician because they wanted an MRI of her spine to rule out inflammation or abscess pressure aggravating the spinal stenosis. They really had a hard time inserting an IV and drawing blood. Finally, Dr. Miller had success and took enough blood for all the tests plus multiple cultures. The early results showed elevated white blood cells and a number of other factors out of normal. They gave Kathleen IV fluid and antibiotics. We waited for MRI results in an NPO status in case surgery was warranted. Finally, Dr. Kalola ordered them to proceed with the transfer to Virtua West Jersey Hospital Voorhees for admission to Room 636 B in the stroke ward. That was completed just before midnight and the NPO was dropped so Kathleen could have food which she devoured. More questions to be answered all over again. They finally let her rest.

Today, Dr. Barnish of Garden State Infectious Disease Control, studied all the results and gave his opinion that what happened was not a repeat of 4/17/2014 and 4/18/2014 when the symptoms presented were similar and ended up

being caused by infection. He agreed with Dr. Kalola that something serious happened but it was not a stroke or an onset of infection. Kathleen is now undergoing EEG and MRI testing for brain problems and nerve communications.

Everyone is pleased that Kathleen is coming out of the symptoms of whatever happened but upset that there is no way to pinpoint what caused this set of repeated symptoms.

Thanks for all the outpouring of comments, prayers, thoughts, etc. Kathleen and I both feel them. We are doing our best to work through all the frustrations, infections, pain, etc.

Kathleen is able to communicate on her cell phone, 1-856-261-4974. Please be patient if she does not respond immediately to calls. Please leave a voice message if Kathleen does not answer before her phone goes to message. She will call you back. We suggest holding the phone calls until the evenings and being patient for her voice or e-mail responses.

She will be checking her e-mail, [pfmckmw@verizon.net](mailto:pfmckmw@verizon.net) when she has time for that.

Kathleen is working with me to straighten up her stuff in the house and we get a bit done each day. This will obviously continue as soon as she is able to return home. Dr. Kalola thinks that she can go home as soon as Virtua PT can certify that she can handle herself in a walker again. They worked on that this morning and plan to return this afternoon.

Bayada Home Care will help me with the wound care as part of their Home Care routine and I am grateful for that. They will also continue PT. We hope to stay with the PT and home exercise until the left leg wound heals with complete closure for swimming both at home as well as at Virtua Health and Wellness Aqua Therapy.

Thanks again for all the comments, prayers and good thoughts.

Keith, 856-261-4975, [keithwerner42@verizon.net](mailto:keithwerner42@verizon.net).