

Kathleen Medical Status, Monday, 11/24/2014 - Done with Tests!

If you are just reading this, please consider reviewing the Kathleen Medical Status, 11/20/2014, 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 11/20/2014, Kathleen 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. Wednesday, 11/19/2014, was a day from HELL with 3 failures to get up out of bed and motivate as she had been doing. Our Primary Care Physicians, Dr. Vijay K. Kalola and Jayesh B. Patel, Primary Care Associates, wanted to see her in their office but recognized that 911 to the closest Emergency Room (ER) was the best way to start the test process to rule out causes of the shutdown of her torso and legs as well as an inability to answer questions. The ER team ruled out a stroke and found some out of spec blood work including high white blood cell count. The fear of infection and the potential impact on the left knee replacement was great. The decision was made to go for an admission and more tests.

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 where she has been since very late on Wednesday, 11/19/2014.

Dr. Barnish, Garden State Infectious Disease Control, is working closely with Dr. Kalola last week and Dr. Patel this week as well as an excellent team of residents and students under the direction of Dr. Elena K. Wellens for wound care.

Kathleen finished her last test today and it verified as did the ultra-sound and MRI that the infection is limited to the surface tissues and has not entered the bone of the left leg. She has no abscesses or other problems requiring surgery.

The left leg has been very tender to the touch with severe cellulitis which requires PICC line antibiotics for several days to several weeks. Her PICC line was installed today and will additionally facilitate blood draws for testing and cultures. Kathleen is a sorry sight of black and blue marks where they have tried to start and maintain IV as well as take blood.

Dr. Wellens and her team have decided to try a wound vac installation to stimulate the healing of the wound from the inside out. That will be done today or early tomorrow and will stay with Kathleen, even at home, for several weeks.

If Dr. Barnish and his team are willing to do a once a day antibiotic routine in their infusion center, Kathleen can be discharged or released back to Bayada Home Care and I can transport her to the infusion center for the antibiotics. Both of us had to do that some years ago when we both came down with bad cases of cellulitis in both legs.

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 when she has time for that.

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.