

Kathleen Medical Status, Saturday, 5/10/2014

If you are just reading this, please consider reviewing the Kathleen Medical Status, 5/4/2014, 4/29/2014, 4/21/2014 and 4/25/2014, previously sent out and posted on FACEBOOK as well as on a web page at <http://www.pfmc.info/KathleenHealth.htm>.

Kathleen moved to PowerBack Rehabilitation Hospital (POWERBACK) Room 226 on Tuesday, 5/6/2014.

She is currently suffering from some anemia that most are saying is a delayed reaction from the left knee surgery on 4/21/2014. None of the doctors treating her currently can explain why this anemia did not show up in the first week. It got so bad that on 5/5/2014 she was transported to the Endo Unit at Virtua Marlton Hospital where she was infused with 1 Unit of Blood. Her hemoglobin levels were reported to have gone up from a low of 6.5 gm/dL to 8.4 gm/dL but she now needs to be infused with another 2 units of blood as normal is 12 to 16 gm/dL. They usually do not do Infusions unless hemoglobin falls below 7 gm/dL.

She finished her 4 weeks of IV antibiotics 3 times per day and may no longer need the PICC line after she gets the 2 units of blood and the medical staff reviews several days of hemoglobin.

Her Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) team members are pleased with her progress.

The biggest problem seems to be re-establishing communications to the muscles in her legs via the compressed or inflamed nerve roots in her back. This is necessary in order to work the legs to support her for walking. There have been no steroid shots to her back as originally suggested.

The biggest concern by the health professionals is that she still has a urinary catheter which is a source of possible infection. This has remained in place because Kathleen is on lacex to help remove the excess fluids in her body due to the oral steroids she was on to help with the back inflammation. Lacex causes her to need a trip to the bathroom as often as every hour or less even with the Detrol LA to give her more bladder alert and control. The nurses want to remove the urinary catheter until they recognize that they cannot be responsible for hourly bedpan service. So . . . I think the urinary catheter will be in place until OT and PT can certify that Kathleen can help herself to a bedside commode. Currently she is a FALL RISK and confined to bed until a certified health professional is there to assist her movement to a wheelchair via a walker and then to a commode.

My biggest concern is that they get Kathleen operating on both legs before they send her home where I have to lift her and maneuver her to the bathroom.

Kathleen is able to communicate on her cell phone, 1-856-261-4974, or via e-mail, pfmckmw@verizon.net when she is not at OT/PT or napping.

I suggest hold the phone calls until evening and be patient for e-mail responses.

Thanks for all the prayers and good thoughts. Happy Mother's Day!!!!