

Kathleen Medical Status, Monday, 5/26/2014

If you are just reading this, please consider reviewing the Kathleen Medical Status, 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>.

Kathleen has been enjoying her stay at PowerBack Rehabilitation Hospital (POWERBACK) Room 226 since Tuesday, 5/6/2014. The team evaluation reported to us on 5/22/2014 is that Kathleen is not cleared for walking without professional assistance so she would have to check herself out Against Medical Advice (AMA) for the planned travel to Omaha, Nebraska for her 55th High School Reunion and a 50 Years of Marriage Celebration on 1 June 2014. Attendance at Omaha events was cancelled.

The two units of blood infused on 5/13/2014 seemed to do the trick on getting Kathleen's blood system back on track. The blood test later that week showed 10.1 gm/dL which is OK for a senior female.

With no additional need for blood or blood draws and the fact that she finished her 4 weeks of IV antibiotics 3 times per day they decided she no longer needed the PICC line and removed it.

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 at night 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 either the bathroom or possibly 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 would have to lift her and maneuver her to the bathroom using a rolling chair / walker.

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. Praying for all the Veterans, Living and Deceased, on Memorial Day!!!!