

Kathleen Medical Status, Sunday, 5/4/2014

If you are just reading this, please consider reviewing the Kathleen Medical Status, 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 has continued to make great progress. She is still on IV antibiotics 3 times per day and will be so for at least 4 weeks since 4/19/2014 when they began.

She has been able to handle her pain on Tramadol / Ultram and that allows her to have full brain engagement during Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT).

The OT and PT team members have been able to get her up on her feet, increased the amount of shuffling, then walking before she has to sit.

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 current plan is to move Kathleen from Marlton Rehabilitation Hospital (REHAB), 308 Door, to PowerBack Rehabilitation Hospital (POWERBACK) sometime on Tuesday, 5/6/2014.

This is going from acute REHAB to sub-acute rehabilitation at POWERBACK but the OT and PT will continue to get her moving by herself using a walker, Rollator, and / or wheelchair.

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.