

## Kathleen Medical Status, Sunday, 6/8/2014

If you are just reading this, please consider reviewing the Kathleen Medical Status, 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 reported in the forwarding e-mail for the 5/26/2014 report, we had a great Memorial Day Weekend with a mixture of exercise, food, friends, play, rest, and work. Kathleen had progress in straight walking using her walker with 20 steps on Saturday, 30 steps on Sunday, 40 steps on Monday, and 100 steps on Tuesday. There was still some difficulty and pain in transitions from lying down, sitting, standing, and moving to and from a wheelchair. This got worse until she was not even comfortable lying in bed unless she had regular doses of pain medication. This was beginning to cause her to be disoriented, fail to answer questions or complete sentences. We were transferred to the office of the knee surgeon, Dr. Wetzler, on Thursday, 5/29/2014, to check on the left knee. He thought it was OK but wanted it back in two weeks to see if he needed to tap it for a culture. We were transferred to the local Emergency Room (ER) on Wednesday, 6/4/2014, for evaluation of the knee and possible infection. Got an ultrasound of both legs and sent back to PowerBack as ER Dr. thought everything was normal. Blood work was not showing an infection so the PowerBack Medical Director, Dr. Chack, ordered blood cultures and put Kathleen on oral antibiotics. It will be days before we have results.

Saturday, 6/7/2014, one of the more caring PowerBack nurses asked the Nurse Practitioner on Duty if she could do a stick check for Urinary Tract Infection (UTI). They both checked the results and decided to send Kathleen back to the local ER for the UTI, more investigation of the knee pain, and investigation of possible disorientation.

The visit to the ER on Saturday, 6/7/2014, was much better than the one on Wednesday, 6/4/2014, despite the fact that the change of catheter was very painful for Kathleen. Another ultrasound of the legs was normal. A CT scan of her head was normal. There is an MRI scheduled for today and for that reason and the need to tap her knee for culture, she was admitted to the Virtua Hospital in Voorhees. She is resting as comfortable as she can in Room A605.

The knee tap today, Sunday, 6/8/2014, did not look good. Dr. Kalola, one of our primary doctors, observed Dr. Wetzler and did not like what came out. They are consulting with each other and their partners. It will be days before we get results. Worst case, all the knee replacement apparatus will have to come out and be replaced with an antibiotic cement spacer with a non-weight bearing straight leg for about 3 months. This will put a damper on what was hoped to be a great summer as there will be no swimming or water immersion for Kathleen's very much loved aqua therapy.

Not sure what can be done in Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT) but will see.

The biggest problem besides any infection and its side effects 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.

As you know we had to cancel our visit to Omaha for the Duchesne 55<sup>th</sup> High School Reunion and a special 50 Years of Marriage Celebration on 1 June 2014. The events on 27 June 2014 here in NJ are still on even if we have to transport Kathleen to them by ambulance. Please see <http://www.pfmc.info/50Years.htm> and please RSVP.

Kathleen is able to communicate on her cell phone, 1-856-261-4974, but has difficulty completing sentences and answering questions right now. Keith checks her e-mail, [pfmckmw@verizon.net](mailto:pfmckmw@verizon.net) when Keith has time for that.

We suggest holding the phone calls until evening and being patient for her voice or e-mail responses.

Thanks for all the prayers and good thoughts. Pray that we understand the answers to prayer, particularly "Why Kathleen, God?" and "Forgive Keith God for he is FRUSTRATED!!!" and "Do not allow FRUSTRATION to look like ANGER!"