

Kathleen Medical Status, Sunday, 8/17/2014

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

Kathleen had her left knee tapped on Thursday, 7/31/2014, and it was clear. The cultures did not show any infection.

We had hoped the surgery to remove her spacer and install new left knee apparatus would be scheduled the following week but initially it was scheduled for 8/22/2014 with 3 more weeks of IV / PICC line antibiotics, an oral antibiotic, and some nose ointment to go against MRCA.

After some negotiation and a tremendous effort to bring her home with 24/7 CNA care, Bayada RN, PT, and OT, the surgery schedule was changed to Friday, 8/15/2014.

We are donating more than a week's worth of saline flushes and IV / PICC line antibiotics to the Evesham Veterinary Clinic where our cats were spayed.

Kathleen was not happy with life with a straight (about 20 degrees) left knee and leg along with the need to wear a diaper because she cannot get out of bed without at least 3 helpers. She loved being at home and dealt well with all the comings and goings of home care help. Our live in 24/7 CNA, Sandy, became part of the family.

Those of you on FACEBOOK have seen the events of this last week from Katherine's perspective. She was really a great daughter and superb care giver.

Katherine brought her family for a farewell dinner at our home on Wednesday evening. Everything looked great. We took some pictures and posted them. We were all set for Kathleen's transport to Virtua Marlton as soon as they were ready for her.

Unfortunately, on my way to Holy Mass on Thursday morning I felt a pop of sharp pain in my right groin area. I thought it might be gas so I kept going. Got very sick, vomited, could hardly walk, etc. Came home to wait for call from hospital that they were ready for Kathleen and went to bed. Next thing I knew Katherine was at our house getting Kathleen transported by local EMT squad. I should have gone with them but everyone thought I would make it with bed rest.

Katherine was worried I might have ruptured my appendix and prepared to come back to get me and take me to the Emergency Room (ER) for testing to see what was wrong with me.

I was already getting ready to transport myself to the ER as the pain of a bloated abdomen was excruciating.

Needless to say they were prepping Kathleen for surgery in ER Position 8 and they put me in ER Position 16 to wait for a cat scan. Katherine and her children were running communications between Kathleen and me until they found a kidney stone (~1 cm) which had been ejected from the right kidney and tore up the right urethra. I visited with Kathleen until they moved her to Room 417 and me to Room 208W in the Progressive Care Unit (PCU) since they thought I might have an abdominal infection. Kathleen went to surgery as scheduled around 1 PM on Friday and I went down about 5 PM waiting for space in the other Operating Room (OR). Katherine went with me as she had been waiting in the OR Waiting Room for news from Kathleen's Team. That team reported to Katherine and to me as we both waited for my OR to be set up for my surgery. The Delaware Valley Urology team installed a stent and put me in the Recovery Room for observance after surgery. I passed all the tests on Saturday, 8/16/2014, and was sent home.

As indicated above, I stayed in touch with Kathleen in the ER. I got news exchanged between us by Katherine while we waited for our respective visits to the OR on Friday. I got reports from her doctors as I was awaiting my turn in the OR. I

saw Kathleen as we were both progressing through the recovery room. I had to be transported for an X-ray on Saturday AM so I had them make a detour past her Room 417 so I got to see her briefly then and again after I was discharged. Kent and Wendy visited me in 208W before my discharge and then were with Mom and Katherine in 417 before Katherine took me home.

Kathleen's surgeons were very pleased with the functioning of the left knee after they installed the new apparatus. They said they had motion from 0 to 95 degrees after surgery. She is obviously in much pain. Today, they got her up on the side of the bed with much screaming due to apprehension and fear of the unknown. She sat up for many more minutes than anyone thought she could. She is a real trooper.

After they got her back down to rest they put her on the CPM which moves her leg to stimulate the muscles and ligaments to do their job. She was in much pain below 20 degrees and screamed a lot so we set the low point first at 10 degrees and finally at 20 degrees to minimize the straightening tension on her leg. She is at 50 degrees for the first use and will progress to more bending and more straightening as she can tolerate both ends of the spectrum. She will have daily PT to get her up on both her feet and legs.

She will be transferred to Marlton Rehabilitation Hospital within a week to 10 days after the primary recovery period in Virtua Marlton Hospital Room 417.

Kathleen had to have one unit of blood outside the OR last night so she is being monitored to see if she needs more blood to replace what was lost in surgery. She appears to be very ashen or white in color and does need more blood from a husband's point of view.

Thanks for all the outpouring of prayers. Kathleen and I both feel them. We are doing our best to work through all the frustrations, pain, etc.

Kathleen is able to communicate on her cell phone, 1-856-261-4974. She is still coming out of the surgical pain, anesthesia, pain medications, CPM inflicted pain, etc. So be patient if she does not respond well.

I will be checking her e-mail, pfmckmw@verizon.net when I have time for that.

We suggest holding the phone calls until the evenings when I can be with her and being patient for her voice or e-mail responses.

Thanks for all the prayers and good thoughts.

Keith, 856-261-4975, keithwerner42@verizon.net.