

Kathleen Medical Status, Tuesday, 8/26/2014

If you are just reading this, please consider reviewing the Kathleen Medical Status, 8/17/2014, 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 was moved from Virtua Marlton Hospital Room 417 to Marlton Rehabilitation Hospital Room 302D around 3 PM on Thursday, 8/21/2014. She had been kept in Virtua Marlton Room 417 for a few extra days because her hemoglobin dropped below 8 on two occasions. She got a unit of blood on Saturday, 8/16/2014 and two units of blood on Monday, 8/18/2014. The desired increase in hemoglobin level was not achieved in either case so it was closely observed hovering between 8.9 and 8.6 for the 3 days until she was transferred. She was given some IV iron products to stimulate her blood system to produce hemoglobin. The blood test levels have not increased significantly at Marlton Rehabilitation Hospital.

On Friday, 8/22/2014, during morning Activities of Daily Living (ADL), Kathleen bent her left knee to the point of bleeding from her incision. It was significant enough that they moved her from Room 302D to Room 205D where there is more staff on all 3 shifts and held therapy until Monday, 8/25/2014, ice packing the area of her left knee and watching the reduced discharge. The incision seal seems to be intact and even Dr. O'Dowd came to look at it and said it was fine. She is scheduled for staple removal on Friday, 8/29/2014, and we will see how solid the seal is on the incision.

We may not have mentioned that there was a spot on her left ankle that appeared after the spacer surgery on 6/13/2014 but was not seen or treated until the staple removal on 6/30/2014. That spot had been treated for weeks from 6/30/2014 to the 8/15/2014 surgery and had reduced in size from about 2" x 4" to about a quarter size. What came out of the 8/15/2014 surgery was a deep depression wound about 3" in diameter. It is being treated for healing from the bottom up. Apparently the surgical procedure requires some sort of pulling device attached to the ankle area and this causes this wound which must be treated by wound care personnel to aid in the healing process.

Yesterday, Monday, 8/25/2014, was the start of both Occupational Therapy (OT) and Physical Therapy (PT). Kathleen thinks she did very well but got tired easily. She really wants to walk on two feet again and is truly motivated. After a busy day, they put her on the Continuous Positive Motion (CPM) machine set 10 to 60 degrees and she stayed on it for several hours. She will get to 0 degree extension soon and go as high as the machine will go in 5 degree increments.

This morning, Tuesday, 8/26/2014, she cut her good right leg near the knee on something getting out of bed and into the wheelchair. That was scary as she is on blood thinners and bleeds profusely from even small cuts. She cut the right leg again on the wheel chair leg support turning the calf support up against her leg. She now has two bandages.

She had one session of OT and two sessions of PT today and is progressing. She is upset that she cannot stand up tall.

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. I am scheduled to go back into Virtua Marlton Hospital for day surgery to remove my kidney stone on Wednesday, 9/3/2014. If all goes well, they will take the stent out a few days after that.

Kathleen is able to communicate on her cell phone, 1-856-261-4974. Please be patient if she does not respond to calls. 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.

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

Thanks for all the prayers and good thoughts.

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