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## From the Nursing Notes / From the Coffee-Stained Patient List

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### From the Nursing Notes

You seemed different today,  
bright, strong.  
The fluorescent bulbs radiate from your skin,  
a sunrise.

*Heart rate: 82 beats per minute.  
Regular.*

“How are you?”  
You ask, before I can ask you.  
We go to the bath.  
Today you take the cloth from my hand.

*Blood Pressure 125/78.  
Normal.*

We walk through the halls.  
Arm in arm,  
as we always do.  
This time you lead the dance  
and I am just pleasant company.

No longer a nurse,  
a friend.



*Temperature 36.5°C.*

*Afebrile.*

I remove your tubes, your wires;  
threads that once held you together.  
Until you burst through their seams.

*Oxygen Saturation 96%.*

*Respiratory Rate: 16 breaths per minute.*

*No acute distress.*

You packed yourself into a bag.  
We said goodbye.  
I turned my back,  
For only a second.

I thought I heard your voice,  
“Nurse,”  
Room 016,  
but I no longer recognized your face.

## From the Coffee-Stained Patient List

### Patient #1:

#### *Pancreatitis*

Sick but stable.

Nothing to do today.

Pain well controlled.

Recheck labs in the morning.

### Patient #2:

#### *Sepsis*

Palliative Care to see.

Family Meeting, 1pm.

Sign off after family meeting.

### Patient #3:

#### *Malignancy*

Complex, multiple issues.

Transfusion, 9am.

Follow-up with hematology.

Consult infectious disease.

Recheck Hb this afternoon.

Continue to monitor vitals.

### Patient #4:

### Patient #5:

#### *Bowel Obstruction*

Post-operative day 6.

Still unsure what to do.

CT this afternoon.

### Patient #6:

#### *Diarrhea*

Discontinue current antibiotics.

Stool culture and sensitivity, toxin screen.

IV fluids.

Continue to monitor.

Patient #7:

*Delirium*

Urine Negative.

Bloodwork Negative.

Imaging Negative.

Son coming in today at 2pm.

Discuss discharge plan.

ALC.

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