

THE VIEW FROM AMBULATORY CLINIC

I. Referral

I knew that he was scared
I knew that he was sick
I sent him to the ER
So he would get help quick

I followed all the notes
And read up on the tests
I spoke to the attending
Who I knew was the best

He had the “big C”—cancer
We knew it at a glance
We admitted him for testing
So he would have a chance

And that’s where my part ended
I knew he’d get good care
But inside me a question
Why wouldn’t I be there?

I’m really very busy
With alerts, abstracts and home
My family is waiting and I really want to go
I’m tired and I’m stressed and it’s easier to say no

I wish that it were different
That I could do it all
I wish that it were different
Maybe I’ll give him a call...

II. Fragments

Oncology

Chemical pain
Infusing hope
Crystal ball longing

Cardiology

CPR
AICD
Life...electrifying!

Hospitalist

Treating
Till you say, “stop!”
Hospice consult

Follow up

Frail...smiling
BIG HUG!
Diminished...grateful

—KRH