

FM REVIEW 2014 21 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a terse, powerful poem that describes the multiple medical and psychosocial issues facing low-income immigrant patients with limited access to healthcare. I think it will speak to any physician who cares for an underserved population. I like the poem quite a bit and am recommending only very minor revisions in line with the reviewers' comments.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a terse, powerful poem that describes the multiple medical and psychosocial issues facing low-income immigrant patients with limited access to healthcare. I think it will speak to any physician who cares for an underserved population. With a few very minor changes, the poem could be even more compelling. Reviewer 1 asks for clarification of "serum negative." I think it is fairly obvious that this refers to a negative pregnancy test, but you might consider adding hCG. I agree with Reviewer 2's suggestions to eliminate the phrase "no English" (unnecessary), and particularly the last line, which is also unnecessary and removes the focus from the patient to the providers. This edit makes the ironic nature of the line about Medicaid come into greater, and more devastating, prominence. The helplessness experienced by providers in the current last line is very well conveyed already through the title.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: The author has made excellent changes to what I now realize is a 55 word story, not a poem per se. In my opinion, it is a strong piece of writing that addresses the plight of desperate immigrants and the helplessness engendered in their healthcare providers. I recommend acceptance.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: This was a very good 55 word story when submitted, and it is even better with revision. I liked the addition of "skinny" for the reason you stated, it provides both medical and psychosocial insight. The added line, "They [patient's tears] run down my spine" is fantastic - such a compelling image. I'm also glad you agreed to omit the last line from the original - believe me, readers will understand the frustration and helplessness you feel. You've done a beautiful job of crafting this within the constraints of this format.