

FM REVIEW 2014 27 COMMENTS

COMMENTS TO EDITOR: This is a touching story about the author's relationship with a patient, first being part of an L&D team and ultimately ushering out her life. The 2nd reviewer seemed to interpret the piece as a critique of current efforts to structure and organize teams, but I did not read it that way. Rather, I think the point was that teams are formed of relationships; and when those bonds develop, often they can re-emerge and be of value in unexpected ways. That being said, I agree that the essay needs considerable shaping, focus, and rewriting, guided by the valuable comments of reviewer 1. I've made a few additional points below.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR: This is a touching story about your relationship with a patient, first as part of an L&D team and ultimately ushering out her life. To me, the point is that teams, although currently governed by protocols and mnemonics, fundamentally consist of relationships; and that when those bonds develop, often they can re-emerge and be of value in surprising and unexpected ways. This point needs to be made more clearly, as the allusion to "teams" in the title of the essay suggests that you will be talking about teams; whereas in fact, you are primarily talking about your relationship with this patient. This confusion is perhaps why the 1st reviewer recommends removing at least some of the references to teams. In your final paragraph, I'd recommend elaborating on the idea of how being part of a team with the patient earlier in her life influenced the relationship you shared at the end.

Please consider Reviewer 1's careful suggestions for rewriting, particularly when it comes to word choice. A narrative essay should not follow conventions for academic writing, but avoid repetitious or unclear language. Please ignore suggestions about the abstract, as there is no abstract included with narrative essays. However, pay attention to the reviewer's desire for a clearer statement about lessons learned, which might be included in that summary paragraph. Finally, to keep within the word limit (1,000) consider cutting a few of the details about the patient - the story is very rich in these, and one or two could be sacrificed without marring the poignancy of the essay.

COMMENTS TO EDITOR II: This is a poignant essay about how teams are defined not by algorithms but by relationships; and how those relationships endure even when the roles change, and nurse becomes patient. The author did an excellent job of reworking the essay so that this perspective on the nature of team bonds becomes clearer. The writing itself is also significantly improved. I recommend accept for publication.

COMMENTS TO AUTHOR II: Thank you for this thoughtful revision, which clarifies what you want to say about teams being defined not by algorithms but by relationships; and how those relationships endure even when the roles change, and nurse becomes patient. It now comes across much more clearly that, although the nature of the team has changed, the sense of "being a team" (now as doctor and patient) has not. The added metaphor of brick and mortar is a good one. The writing throughout the manuscript is also significantly improved, extraneous and awkward language removed. On rereading, I especially appreciate the portrait of Linda that emerges; yet your role as her physician is

also better defined. The last line now reads with special poignancy because it is obvious that you and your patient were a team till the end..