

However, we feel the poem has promise, and would like to invite you to revise.

There are several major concerns:

- 1) Without the cover letter (which are not published), two of three reviewers struggled to understand what the poem was about. Although you refer to “bottled redemption,” this could easily suggest alcohol use. Please consider using words such as medication or pills that directly implicate polypharmacy. It might also help to hyphenate the title: “De-Prescription.”
- 2) Although the poem is well-crafted, at times the lyrical language is simply obscure (see attachment for examples). Please clarify the meaning of the lines indicated.
- 3) Reviewer 1 raises the issue that the poem is unintentionally physician-centric by not acknowledging that the patient’s view of their multiple drug consumption may be quite different than that of their doctor’s. Could you integrate an allusion to the patient’s perspective – a line or two that recognizes their dependency, their insistence that they need these medications to function etc.
- 4) Reviewer 1 intimates some of the language (“lure,” “unveil,” “disguise”) in the last stanza perhaps suggests deceiving or manipulating rather than empowering the patient. I think the problem is that the patient seems very passive in this process of salvation. Please take a look at this stanza and think about revising to describe more of a partnership with the patient.

We like the topic you’ve tackled, it is an unusual and intriguing subject for a poem. We would like to see a revision that addresses the above issues and that improves the poem’s accessibility.