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My bottom-line is that these are really strong poems, better than the majority of submissions I see either for Pulse or Family Medicine. My recommendation is to scoop them up immediately. Initially, I wondered whether the author was setting herself too high a bar, in emulating the great physician-poet WCW. But in my view they are up to the task. The poem XX is modeled on The Red Wheelbarrow, a classic WCW poem that has provoked a range of interpretations. While remaining true to line and meter, the author has updated the subject matter to focus on the centrality assumed in the contemporary healthcare system by EMR. The economy of language is a real strength, and simultaneously honors WCW's own succinct and unfrilly writing.

I don't know whether the second poem has a specific reference in the body of WCW's work, but it captures beautifully the impatience I imagine Williams would feel with the algorithmic color-in-the-lines nature of the EMR; the predominance of financial gain over human compassion; and the stifling of physician creativity that results. Williams was irrevocably committed in his own gruff, sometimes patriarchal way, to the poor immigrant patients who constituted the majority of his practice. This poem reverberates with similar sentiments, set to elegant, spare, and uncompromising prose.

I would not change a word in either poem. They are beautifully crafted with serious, provocative messages.