

## **FSH REVIEW 2015 2**

**I thought this was a good topic. The story itself is a little hard to understand but if the "explanation" can be accepted then it works well. Its strengths are the telling detail of the handbags; and conceptualizing the patient's creating the opportunity for the author to set a limit as a "gift." The writing is somewhat prosaic, but workmanlike. The last line in particular I find feeble and stereotypic. I think the story would be a lot stronger if she just cut it and added a few extra words elsewhere (see example above). I think the poem could be improved with a little judicious editing.**

### **Comments to Author:**

**The topic of "saying no" is a valuable one, and one with which many physicians struggle. I liked the detail of the designer purse, and how it shifted to a knock-off. I also liked the way the story conceptualized the patient's creating the opportunity for you to "say no" as a gift.**

**The explanatory note was helpful, as otherwise I might not have understood the issue so clearly. However, I wonder if there would be any way to express within the story that the patient was seeking early refill of controlled substances. Please see my edit below.**

**Two other suggestions: 1) The word "For" on line 2 seems awkward. I realize you need it for the word count, but I'd delete. Maybe the line could read, "I'd just said no to another early controlled refill request" and you could trim a few words somewhere else (see edit). 2) Although this patient I'm sure was "difficult," I cringe at the label of "difficult patient." It evokes all sorts of unfortunate stereotypes. In fact, the last line to me does not add much and seems unnecessary. I think you could do away with it entirely (see edit).**