

FHS DECISION LETTER 215 10

I have now received the reviews of your manuscript and am able to make an editorial decision. You have done an outstanding job of revision - very thoughtful and focused. The essay reads extremely well. In particular, you do not make any broad generalizations about the failures of the healthcare system, but instead show that the "good death" that your mom finally experienced in no way mitigated the errors and hubris that occurred at the start of her dying. I am fully supportive of how you have rewritten the final section of the essay. Also, although I had some reservations about the postscript when you referred to it in your cover letter, I think it shows succinctly how the system that harmed your mom was at least somewhat responsive to your and your family's efforts to modify procedures in a positive direction. At the same time, it is clear that such changes do not mitigate the family's grief.

To accept this revision, we ask that you make a handful of very minor edits to clean up typos and improve flow of the manuscript. If you have any insight into why the shift change resulted in such a dramatic shift in tone of the team, I hope you can include this. Was it just different personalities? Less tired people? If it is a mystery for you, perhaps you can say that, and perhaps a word or two more about how this change in tone affected you - did it free you to be more present with your dad and mom, less needing to battle a hostile system in these final moments?

DECISION LETTER 2

I am pleased to inform you that your work has now been accepted for publication in *Families, Systems, and Health*. Out of the raw pain of a devastating experience, you have crafted a compelling and powerful essay that should give every reader pause about end of life care, especially in emergent situations. Thank you for your patience with this process. I hope you feel, as I do, that the essay is a polished gem that refracts all the horrors (and also the moments of peace) that were part of your mom's passing.