

FHS REVIEW 2016 2

he subject of this 55 word story, the EHR, is very topical, and it is interesting to see it approached from a literary perspective. The decision of the narrator to "co-create" the record is also intriguing, and I could imagine readers finding this choice thought-provoking. I found the last lines about sitting "side by side" and "beginning their work/Together" a moving and hopeful image of what healthcare can look like.

Overall, unfortunately, the writing is not extraordinary. I have a particular problem with the author's reliance on adverbs, which generally are a weak grammatical construct when employed in poetry. There are 6 in this 55 word story, and for me, that is 6 too many. I especially disliked the string of adverbs: "slowly, thoughtfully, carefully confidently." I suggest the author find a way through image and metaphor to show rather than tell her readers what patient (and narrator) are feeling.

Comments to Author:

The subject of this 55 word story, the EHR, is very topical, and it is interesting to see it approached from a literary perspective. The decision of the narrator to "co-create" the record is also intriguing, and I could imagine readers finding this choice thought-provoking. I found the last lines about sitting "side by side" and "beginning their work/Together" a moving and hopeful image of what healthcare can look like.

The one line I thought rather weak was the string of adverbs: "slowly, thoughtfully, carefully, confidently." I am not a big fan of adverbs, especially in such a piece, and you already have included "worriedly" and "curiously," neither of which is strong either. I realize you are working within the constraints of 55 words, but I recommend eliminating the adverbs (at least the slowly line, and perhaps the other two if you can) and instead to try show through image, metaphor, or action what you are trying to convey.