

- 25 Gruber-Baldini AL, Stuart B, Zuckerman IH, Hsu VD, Boockvar KS, Zimmerman S, et al. Sensitivity of nursing home cost comparisons to method of dementia diagnosis ascertainment. *Int J Alzheimer Dis* 2009; **2009**: 780720.
- 26 Crane PK, Walker R, Larson EB. Glucose levels and risk of dementia. *NEMJ* 2013; **369**: 1863-4.
- 27 Sahathevan R, Brodtmann A, Donnan GA. Dementia, stroke, and vascular risk factors; a review. *Int J Stroke* 2012; **7**: 61-73.
- 28 Skoog I. Risk factors for vascular dementia: a review. *Dementia* 1994; **5**: 137-44.
- 29 Shrank WH, Patrick AR, Brookhart MA. Healthy user and related biases in observational studies of preventive interventions: a primer for physicians. *J Gen Intern Med* 2011; **26**: 546-50.
- 30 Johnson MJ, Sheard L, Maraveyas A, Noble S, Prout H, Watt I, et al. Diagnosis and management of people with venous thromboembolism and advanced cancer: how do doctors decide? A qualitative study. *BMC Med Inform Decis Mak* 2012; **12**: 75.
- 31 Fillit H, Geldmacher DS, Welter RT, Maslow K, Fraser M. Optimizing coding and reimbursement to improve management of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. *J Am Geriatr Soc* 2002; **50**: 1871-8.
- 32 Rothman KJ, Greenland S, Lash TL. *Modern Epidemiology*. Wolters Kluwer Health/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, 2008.
- 33 van der Flier WM, Scheltens P. Epidemiology and risk factors of dementia. *J Neurol Neurosurg Psychiatry* 2005; **76** (suppl 5): v2-7.



poem

Careful

Kathleen M. Kelley

There is a man I almost know,
an orderly in green scrubs I see
in the elevator, pass in the halls
at the hospital where we are careful
to look down, knowing our patients
deserve their privacy, and we are strangers.

Elevators are full of strangers.
They see without even looking and know
more than you'd think about the patients
on gurneys. The door opens. I look to see
who's getting off, and it's him, being careful
with his gurney as it takes the bump into halls

where everyone is in a hurry, uneven halls
clumsily connected, painted by strangers
in colors that sicken. Always, he is careful
with the bumps, I've been behind him, know
the set of his shoulders, his grey pony tail. I see
some others who transport patients

with tumors or wounds or dementia, patients
who are helpless, but leave them in the halls
alone while they hurry off on break to see
if the coffee's ready yet. Professional strangers,
we avert our eyes because we know
too much about the system's failures. Careful

about privacy means we protect our own, careful
to forget that sometimes we are the patients.
We all take a turn being human, should know
better than to walk along these halls
as if we shared nothing with the strangers
we take care of, like the ones I'm here to see

today, who carry code words I never like to see:
metastatic, bipolar, morbidly obese. 'Careful,'
what's implied. Extraordinary strangers
often, for I have much in common with my patients,
whose bedsides can remind me of familial halls
that bore the exact same misery. Good thing I know

enough as I start to chart on patients
who would all rather be cured than healed, to be careful
not to write about everything I know.

Kathleen M. Kelley is a social worker. The poem was selected by Femi Oyeboode.
Published in *The Hippocrates Prize Anthology*, Hippocrates Press, 2012.
© Kathleen M. Kelley. Reprinted with permission.

The British Journal of Psychiatry (2015)
207, 51. doi: 10.1192/bjp.bp.114.147090