



Unusual Suspects

I read an interesting story on the internet recently. It has nothing and everything to do with Positive Deviance (PD) and MRSA.

"David" is a middle aged gentleman with Scleroderma. He shares his experiences on a blog.

September 2007

Every time we go in the exam room, Dr L has a different 'student' who is a real doctor, working with him, that meets with the patient first.

The student comes in and does the pre exam, asking general questions about me and doing an exam. One part of the exam, which I've previously mentioned, is where they score my skin on a scale of 0 to 3 with 0 meaning normal and 3 meaning severe damage. They check my fingers, hands, arm, legs, face, chest, etc.

Well, I know my score (as does my wife) since they do it every time. After they are done, the 'student' comes back in with Dr L and he always asks the student Dr to explain their scoring.

Well this time, the other Dr didn't do so well but it is always the part that is most subjective and where Dr L usually disagrees with the student.

Next time we might feel bad for the 'student' and give them some hints to help them out. Or maybe we'll make cards like they used to hold up in diving competitions and after the 'student' rates me, we'll hold up the cards with the right number. If you really wanted to know, my right hand is a 2, my left hand is a 1, my forearms are 1's, my upper arms 0, my face is a 1, my chest a 2, my abdomen a 0, etc.

June 2008

One of the doctors helping out came in and asked me all the standard questions. This other doctor was one who I had seen last Sept.

She asks how am I feeling, if anything changed (for better or worse), need any prescriptions (I needed a renewal for my monthly blood work), and tested me to rate my skin across my hands, arm, face, chest, back and legs.

Since I know that how they rate me is the main question Dr L asks them when he comes in, we discussed what she was going to say since I'm pretty accurate with rating and I remember what it was last time. That prep paid off for her since she nailed her rating with him.

I think I am starting to see more possibilities - since PD.

How much more is there to learn - do - if our circle of unusual suspects - gets bigger?

I wonder what the patients in our facilities are seeing and doing - maybe it is time to go ask them?