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## Poetry and prose

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### Together and waiting

The people in the waiting room at the hospital  
cannot help but wonder just what is wrong  
with everyone else.

The old woman in the borrowed wheelchair.  
The man with the bandaged right hand.  
The brown child whose mother is crying.

Someone has taped paper flowers to the wall.

A person in a green outfit will come for them soon.  
They will learn, one at a time, the names of

The old woman in the borrowed wheelchair.  
The man with the bandaged right hand.  
The brown child whose mother is crying.

They all just want to be OK,  
for the person in the green outfit to tell them so.  
Then they can be happy again, happy  
to be gone from the waiting room at the hospital.

And they can forget  
the colors of the paper flowers taped to the wall  
and the names they had learned one at a time.

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**Competing interests** None.

**Provenance and peer review** Not commissioned; internally peer reviewed.

Published Online First 6 January 2012

*Med Humanit* 2012;**38**:37. doi:10.1136/medhum-2011-010148