

Cumler, Ethan U,  
MD

Physician

Addendum

Acute Care  
Elderly-2

Treatment  
Plan

Date of  
Service:

Dear

I want to share with you my thoughts on your treatment plan while you are here at the University of Colorado Hospital.

You were hospitalized for shortness of breath and right leg swelling that developing after your knee replacement surgery last month. Blood clots can form in the leg after surgery even when patients are taking the blood thinner shots designed to try to prevent them. When this happens the leg is often swollen, just as we see in your right leg, and the clots can break off and travel to the lungs. On the CAT scan yesterday we saw blood clots in your lung. Doctors call this a "pulmonary embolism" and this explains why you are having trouble breathing. We are waiting for the results of a heart test called an "echo" done today that lets us see how much stress this is putting on your heart. I am encouraged by the fact that you are not needing oxygen this morning.

Our treatment plan includes blood thinning medicine to treat these blood clots. Right now you are on shots to thin your blood, and provide protection from new clots forming. As we discussed this morning, a pill form blood thinner would be just as effective. You told me you had bleeding from blood thinners in the past you were taking for the irregular heart rate you have called "atrial fibrillation". Bleeding or bruising is definitely a potential risk with any blood thinning medicine. However, with new clots in your lungs I believe the risk of clots is higher for you right now than the risk of bleeding. We discussed going back on the rivaroxaban medicine you used to take to prevent strokes from the irregular heart rate starting today. We will stop your aspirin while you are on the rivaroxaban to keep the bleeding risk as low as possible.

Your other medical issues appear stable and we are keeping an eye on things like your high blood pressure. We did a blood test that came back negative for any signs of your prostate cancer having returned.

I hope that you could go back home as soon as later today or early tomorrow morning. You will be ready to leave the hospital if your heart test looks OK and as long as your blood pressure and oxygen levels remain stable.

We talked about avoiding any surgery that is not an emergency for at least a few months after a blood clot in the lungs. I would recommend putting off the plan to do the replacement of your other knee.

Please let me know if you have any questions about your treatment plan.

Ethan U Cumler, MD  
Attending Hospitalist Physician

This letter is being given directly to you in the hospital to describe your treatment plan for the day. It is your choice whether you want to share it with your family or friends to help them understand your care. Remember, this letter contains your health information. Please do not leave it in a public area. You can ask your nurse to shred it after you have read it or to place in your folder of health information you received this hospital stay. If you would like more access to your health information and laboratory test results in the hospital, visit: [myhealthconnection.uhealth.org](http://myhealthconnection.uhealth.org)