

POETRY

Competency parfait (a common sense–based clinical practice guideline)

Competency assessment:

90-something-year-old
gourmand de la vie.
10 years retired bush pilot,
WWII vet,
no family,
few remaining friends,
endless stories,
fearless.

Stubborn heart.
Tired vessels.
Amputation.

Hospital: nursing home.
Patient: middle finger.

Two parts input from said patient.
Half part input from
fully qualified
licensed
well-intentioned
health care providers.

Simmer on low heat.
Stir in recent charting on file until dissolved.
Add clock drawing (prefer fresh, if available/in season).
Continue stirring until consistency thickens.

Layer into serving bowl and chill in refrigerator
overnight.



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Portion and plate
topped with a warm coulis
of said patient's Gallic panache.
Serve with a tall glass
of cold-filtered indignation
at the state of our system
a.k.a.
the system of our state.

Michael J. Passmore MD
Geriatric Psychiatry
Clinical Assistant Professor
University of British Columbia
Vancouver, BC

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