



Family Medicine Moments

February 1, 2024

Introduction: This week I share with you a poem from Pratiksha Yalakkishettar, a former family medicine resident at Hahnemann Family Health Center and current Preventive Medicine resident. She says this is "a piece I wrote recently reflecting on an incident on L&D from a few years ago during FM residency where a mother was going to be separated from her child after discharge." There is nothing as overwhelming in life as being separated from a loved one and even worse when it is a child. Pratiksha captures the moment from the clinician's perspective.

no wrong of their own

By Pratiksha Yalakkishettar

She sits defiantly in bed,
Infant on her breast gently,
Firmly held to her skin,
Until last night this child was growing within her,
Protected from the outside world in womb and warmth
And she looks past me as I ask the daily questions,
Answering with straightforward strength,
I count down in my head to their imminent discharge,
Knowing that they will go their separate ways,
Outside the hospital,
Mother and child separated by society,
For no wrong of their own.