

MEDical Treatment Effectiveness Program Poem (MEDTEPP)

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To treat, and how to treat—
Two of many hard questions.
Does appropriate care involve the stings and
 perils of invasive tactics?
And how shall we reduce those variations in practice?

Which patients, and why, come out the best?
What was done, when, and what was the test?
What personal virtues and values were risked?
And, on the other hand, which ones got fixed?

Use this drug or that one? That procedure or none?
How long did s/he live, and did s/he have fun?
What function was gained? What function was lost?
And, you may wonder, how much did it cost?

In Boston, New Haven, and small areas too.
Treatment options are plenty—but data are few.
So doctors, patients, and health policy makers
Want findings, and guidance, and disseminators.

Care providers and payers all want to know
Which alternatives are best, and how best to show.
So Congress made MEDTEP, whose goal is to state
When to aggressively treat, and when to watchfully wait.

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