

The Wareham Family Part 4: Anthony Wareham Sr.

Anthony Wareham had enjoyed very good health. He had his check up with the doctor before starting his exercise program and no serious problems were identified. His only issue was slightly enlarged prostate and positive occult blood. He had no symptoms, his other tests are normal, and he is on the waiting list for screening colonoscopy.

Over a week period week, Anthony complained to Bride that he was running to the washroom frequently, including at night. Bride noted that he was becoming lethargic, not exercising and was barely eating. When asked what was wrong, he passed it off as a flu bug. He thought it would likely pass in a day or two, and increased his vitamin c supplement.

Several days ago, Bride came home and noticed Anthony sitting on the sofa looking very unwell. He was warm to touch, almost passed out when he tried to stand and was incontinent of urine. Bride was very frightened and called the ambulance to go to the emergency department. On the way, she called her son to meet her there.

In the ER, Anthony was examined. His temperature was up and his blood pressure down, was not oriented to time and place, and was calling for Bride to help him. His mouth and skin were dry, and other examinations were generally normal. Laboratory test were ordered and Anthony was admitted to hospital and treated for infection and dehydration. He had a urinary catheter inserted to monitor urinary output.

Bride was relieved that Anthony was getting treated but his confusion worried her. Overnight in hospital he became combative, was trying to leave the hospital, and had to be restrained and given sedation.

The next day his temperature and blood pressure returned to normal. His confusion remained but was less severe. Bride noticed he had a spotty, red rash on his back when she was washing him that resolved with a change of antibiotics. By the 3rd day of admission he seemed more himself, with lab tests returning to normal and he was switched to oral antibiotics.

When discharge planning began, Bride had concerns about taking him home so soon. He still seemed weak to her, had occasional confusion in the evening, and she was scared he was getting Alzheimer's. The doctor reassured Bride that this was delirium associated with his infection and would resolve. Anthony in his improved state was pressuring to go home to recuperate. Because of Bride's concerns, Anthony was kept in hospital for another night then discharged.