

Futures

Medical records from the Center for the Study of Temporal Disorders, Pediatric Department

The doctor will see you now (and then). By Diana Peterfreund



MEDICAL RECORDS TRANSCRIPTION, PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

Provider: Judith Bialis, MD (Board-Certified Temporalist), Pediatric Department, Center for the Study of Temporal Disorders, Baltimore, Maryland.

MR#515982
Date: 1/4/24

Notes: Patient is 3-year-old female. Initial consult. Appears physically healthy, average motor skills, above-average verbal development. Referred to practice due to ongoing anomalies in patient's bedroom, most recently appearance of toys parents claim they lost during their own childhoods: a small doll and, of particular note, an antique rocking horse that could not be physically lifted by patient. When questioned,

patient declares she "got them from her special place". When asked to show me her 'special place' she produced my Fisher-Price Doctor Kit, which disappeared when I was six. It still had the masking tape with my name on the case.

Gave parents strategies for explaining to patient in age-appropriate way that stealing is stealing, even from earlier timeline. Recommend standard course of Cognitive-Temporal Behavioural Therapy, follow up for diagnostic testing in one week.

MR# 324013
Date: 1/4/24

Notes: Monthly appointment. 14-year-old male with Temporal Slip Disorder, Type II. Patient making great strides in not utilizing slips to cheat on tests in school. Is currently in conflict with twin sister (not a patient, but

referred for assessment) over science fair project, which he claims she destroyed in another timeline. Patient won award for said project, but he says this only proves his point.

MR# 513655
Date: 1/4/24

Notes: Patient is 13-year-old male. This is our second meeting. Referred by PCP for threatening to go back in time to kill his grandfather. At this meeting, he announced he did.
[NOTE: MR# NOT FOUND]

MR# 201033
Date: 1/7/24

Notes: Patient is 17-year-old male. Periodical check-up for Metamorphic Temporal Disorder. Patient reports two years since he last experienced an anomaly. His mother was quite

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emotional at check-up and apologized to me multiple times, saying she never believed me that he'd grow out of it. But I've never met this woman before and am not familiar with this case. They both said I'm the only therapist they've ever seen.

MR# 515920

Date: 1/7/24

Notes: Patient is 4-year-old female, referred for diagnostic testing. Desk calendar in office caused noted discomfort. Parents displayed resistance to administration of standard card test, citing earlier incident with family photo albums. I explained that it's a basic, non-invasive tool for diagnostic testing. Asked patient to put in order cards showing a baby, a young child, an adult and an old man. She shredded them.

Possible Dx of Temporal Slip Disorder Type III. Rx 2-week course of Clockinex at 2mg. (Generic OK.)

MR# 515954

Date: 1/7/24

Notes: Initial consult with 15-year-old female. No show, but voicemail message from patient dated this morning: "Thank you for all your advice over the eons. I think I've figured it out."

MR# 515999

Date: 1/1/01

Notes: Where am I? Or when? Last thing I remember I was doing standard intake procedure on new patient, taking vitals. Now in strange room with swaddled baby on exam table. Only familiar items in room are my clothing and this records tablet, identifiable from my "What Is/Was/Will Be Up, Doc?" sticker on case.

MR# 515999

Date: 2/2/02

Notes: Patient is toddler, estimated age 12-15 months. She is crying – wailing really, but I can't understand anything else.

MR# 515999

Date: 3/3/03

Notes: Patient is the same toddler. I think.

MR# 515999

Date: 4/4/04

Notes: She keeps saying "Not again."

MR# 515999

Date: 5/5/05

Notes: Have erected barrier between myself and child using swivel chair. Her Temporal Distortion Field is affecting the intercom system, though not my records tablet. Am unable to call for assistance.

MR# 515999

Date: 6/6/06

Notes: She is right

MR# 515999

Date: 7/7/07

Notes: And I can't keep her from

MR# 515999

Date: 8/8/08

Notes: S(*%5FYpv!

MR# 515999

Date: 9/9/09

Notes: STAFF ALERT. REQUEST IMMEDIATE REVIEW. EMERGENCY. NOTE PATTERN.

MR# 515999

Date: 10/10/10

Notes: Patient, now approximately nine years old, and I arrived (for lack of better term) at a room already primed for Temporal Distortion Field Containment Unit, Level Six. Never been so happy for the EMR Mandate. Child is currently stable while we determine proper chain of custody, as custodial parents of record have not yet met and one is still a minor.

Unsure of proper reimbursement code. Additionally, I do not yet appear on the provider list or timesheet at this facility. Nor do I have any place to stay the night.

MR# 201033

Date: 10/11/10

Notes: This is the only tablet still accepting my login credentials, but admin says if I am

here I might as well see patients. As they were so kind as to provide me with a cot last night I guess we're doing that.

Patient is 2-year-old male. Sent for initial consult when mother found him replaced in crib by 45-year-old self, still in original body's diapers. Mother is understandably distraught by anomaly, which according to her statement, did not last long.

Dx of Metamorphic Temporal Disorder.

ALERT: MTD does not currently appear in diagnostic codes and system would not let me manually input it, either. Told parent that boy would probably grow out of it by his teens, but mother remained unconvinced and I could not find usual literature to send home with them.

On a personal note, admin claims there's no record of me with state licensing board. Unsure of further ability to practise in this timeline. Timesheet still an issue, and I can't spend another night on that cot. What am I? A resident?

Diana Peterfreund is the author of more than 15 novels for adults, teens and children; many short stories; and at least one comic book. She lives in Maryland with her family.

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

Diana Peterfreund reveals the inspiration behind *Medical records from the Center for the Study of Temporal Disorders*, *Pediatric Department*.

When my daughter was a toddler, she sometimes struggled with the concept of linear time. Although it's a perfectly normal part of child development, it did make for some amusing incidents, like when she'd ask to go back to yesterday to retrieve a lost item. (And for years, she would still discuss "tomorrow's tomorrow".) A joke with a writer friend about possible occupational therapy for the issue inspired this story's 'paediatric temporalist'. There are so many ways that modern medicine and therapy can assist people with special needs. If kids can become unstuck in time, they, too, deserve a professional who can help them adapt.

I put in nods to all my favourite flavours of time travel, imagining these patients as struggling like Billy Pilgrim, Marty McFly, or even Phil Connors from *Groundhog Day*. The laws of physics might have to bend in different directions in each case, but that's a question for future researchers.

I grew up with a doctor father and remember falling to sleep as a child to the sound of him dictating medical file notes into a tape recorder. Now, of course, they're electronic, but I hope they're still as comprehensive. This doctor's resourcefulness, empathy and practicality are in honour of my dad.

