[Dr. Anya Silver] As the doors glide shut behind me,  
the world flares back into being—  
I exist again, recover myself,  
Sunlight, undimmed by dark panes,  
the heat on my arms, the earth’s breath.  
The wind tongues me to my feet  
like a doe licking clean her newborn fawn.  
At my back, days measured by vital signs,  
my mouth opened and arm extended,  
the nighttime cries of a man withered  
child-size by cancer, and the bells  
of emptied IVs tolling through hallways.  
Before me, life—mysterious, ordinary—  
holding off pain with its muscular wings.  
As I step to the curb, an orange moth  
dives into the basket of roses  
that lately stood on my sickroom table,  
and the petals yield to its persistent  
nudge, opening manifold and golden.

[Katie Cowart] You’ve just heard Dr. Anya Silver read her poem “Leaving the Hospital,” which appears in the April 2012 issue of CDC’s journal, Emerging Infectious Diseases. You can read the poem online at www.cdc.gov/eid.

If you’d like to comment on this podcast, send an email to eideditor@cdc.gov. That’s e-i-d-editor – one word – at c-d-c-dot-gov.

I’m Katie Cowart, for Emerging Infectious Diseases.