

This Is Not a Bill

Never mind the envelope
with the clear plastic window
the kind that normally says
Inside You Will Find a Bill

Don't be scared by the numbers
preceded by dollar signs
an entire page of numbers
Some of Them with a Comma

And don't worry that the words
are those you'd see in a bill
official-sounding words like
Charges, Co-Pay, Amount Paid

After all it's not a bill
it says so on the first page
in the upper right corner
Big Bold Letters in a Box

It's just a courtesy from
the insurance company
a breakdown of what they've paid
And of What You May Still Owe

If only that left chest pain
that seemed like a heart attack
but turned out to be heartburn
had been so clearly stated

Adam Possner, MD

