

## Should patients be compelled to undergo HIV testing . . .

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## Morning Rounds

"Good morning," I said.  
"Come closer," she asked.  
*I did not, could not,  
and stood in the doorway.*  
"Do you need anything?"  
"Come closer," she said.  
*I am close, I thought.*  
The room was small, filled by her bed.  
"I mean near the bed—next to me—  
so I can see you."  
*I moved closer, foreseeing her death,  
which I could not prevent.*

"I like it when you are close."  
*I moved even closer,  
reaching for her hand.*  
"That's what I needed,  
to touch your hand and to thank you."  
She smiled, her face aglow,  
and I wept silently  
as I moved even closer  
to kiss her cheek  
to thank her  
for asking me to come closer  
when I thought I could not.

*Arvey I. Rogers, M.D.*

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