

**Patient 101**

*Here, they tag the sick like oxen  
and plod us down quiet corridors  
to treatment rooms. I'm known  
as patient #101—a subject  
to be tended like a field. Most days  
my wife rolls me about because  
I've lost what's left of my strength  
and can barely stand. Here, I'm a slave  
to their tonics. Here, I'm not a man.*