

POETRY

## LMCCQE II

Stickers march up their arms  
like a dozen bloodless cuts  
Defiant white flags not  
ready for surrender

"Your sticker please"  
Some need a prompt each time  
Lost in a transient fugue  
Facts playing hide-and-seek

The stickers are mere paper,  
black and white bar codes  
with years of study crammed  
between the parallel lines

Anxious they watch  
Sigh  
as the gum grips the sheet,  
Seals their fate

A final spin and they're all used up  
The roulette drops the black ball  
The candidates cash in their chips  
A computer will calculate their fate

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**Editor's note:** The LMCCQE II is the  
Licentiate of the Medical Council of  
Canada Qualifying Examination Part II,  
designed to assess the competence of  
candidates prior to entry into independent  
clinical practice.

CMAJ 2011. DOI:10.1503/cmaj.110536



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