Hello,

I am looking forward to coming back to Heartland Dermatology soon and providing the same care and service you have always received from me. As many of you know, I have been away from work for the last several weeks. My goal is always to be as honest and transparent with you as I hope you are with me, so I am writing to share a little of my story and give you a life update as I transition myself back into work.

On July 22nd, our daughter, Kate, was born with severe disabilities. We soon learned that her life would look very different than we had imagined, and that we might not have very much time with her. For the next six weeks, our family was blessed with the opportunity to love her, hold her, care for her, and keep her comfortable. Those six weeks were filled with moments of both deep sadness and incredible love. Kate passed peacefully on September 1st, surrounded by the people who loved her most.

Many of you knew I was expecting a baby and were excited for me and my family. Although Kate's time with us was short, she was deeply loved, and she will always be a part of our family.

I am still navigating this grief journey, and I am asking for your prayers, grace, and patience as I continue to do so. Returning to work will be both a welcome distraction and an emotional transition for me. There may be days when I am doing well and days when the grief feels a little heavier.

I am sharing Kate's story with you through this letter because I want you to know what has happened, but I also want to be honest that I may not be able to talk about it during your appointment. Please know that if we see each other, you do not need to ask me about Kate or feel that you need to say the right thing. I would like to use our time together to focus on you and your health and to continue providing you with the care you deserve. Your understanding of this boundary means more to me than I can express.

I am incredibly grateful for the love and support my family has received during this time. Thank you for allowing me to share a small part of Kate's story with you and for giving me the space to navigate this season of our lives.

I look forward to seeing you all in the coming weeks.

With gratitude,

Gina Liebl, APRN-C