

**In The Matter Of:**  
*Board of Registration in Medicine v.*  
*Padmanabhan, M.D.*

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*Bharanidharan Padmanabhan, M.D.*  
*Vol. 4*  
*January 15, 2015*

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*Jones & Fuller Reporting*  
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*Boston, MA 02110*



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Page 522

1 Volume: IV  
2 Pages: 522-733  
3 Exhibits: See index.

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5 COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
6 DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW APPEALS  
7

8 Civil Action No. RM-14-363  
9 ----- x  
10 BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE,  
11 Petitioner,  
12 v.  
13 BHARANIDHARAN PADMANABHAN, MD,  
14 Respondent.  
15 ----- x  
16

17 HEARING BEFORE MAGISTRATE KENNETH BRESLER  
18 Thursday, January 15, 2015  
19 10:02 a.m. to 4:02 p.m.  
20 Civil Service Commission  
21 One Ashburton Place, Room 503  
22 Boston, Massachusetts  
23  
24 Reporter: Marianne R. Wharram, CSR/RPR

Page 523

1 A P P E A R A N C E S  
2  
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23  
24

Page 524

1 I N D E X  
2 WITNESS DIRECT CROSS REDIRECT RECROSS  
3 BARRY LEVIN, MD  
4 (BY MR. PAIKOS) 526  
5 (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) 614  
6  
7  
8 E X H I B I T S  
9 NO. DESCRIPTION PAGE  
10 Respondent's 2 Fair Hearing Excerpt 727  
11 Respondent's 12 Letters, 11/9/12 and 12/22/12 599  
12 Respondent's 13 Letter Dated 1/29/2013 from 599  
13 B. Padmanabhan to the Board  
14 Of Registration in Medicine  
15 Respondent's 14 Letter Dated 7/11/2014 from 601  
16 The Board of Registration in  
17 Medicine to Dr. Padmanabhan  
18 And Attachment  
19 Respondent's 15 Termination Letter from 601  
20 Cambridge Health Alliance  
21 Respondent's 16 Letter Dated 9/9/10 from 602  
22 Brian Sullivan to Eve Slattery  
23  
24 Continued.

Page 525

1 E X H I B I T S, continued  
2 NO. DESCRIPTION PAGE  
3 Respondent's 17 Bharanidharan Padmanabhan CV 602  
4 Respondent's 18 Example of Respondent's MRI 603  
5 Expertise and Standard of Care  
6 Respondent's 19 Example of Respondent's MRI 604  
7 Expertise and Standard of Care  
8 Respondent's 20 Example of Respondent's Ability 606  
9 To Diagnose MS and Manage  
10 Complex Cases  
11 Respondent's 21 e-mail String Between Thomas 609  
12 Glick, MD, and Bharanidharan  
13 Padmanabhan, MD, 2008  
14 Respondent's 22 609  
15 Exhibit Patient G Medical Record 440 685  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22 \*Original exhibits retained by Administrative  
23 Magistrate Bresler.  
24

Page 526

1 PROCEEDINGS  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Today is January 15th,  
3 2015. This is a hearing before the Division of  
4 Administrative Law Appeals. It is being held at  
5 the Civil Service Commission, One Ashburton Place,  
6 Boston, Massachusetts. This appeal has the docket  
7 number RM-14-436 (sic). The petitioner is the  
8 Board of Registration in Medicine. The respondent  
9 is Bharanidharan Padmanabhan, MD. I am  
10 Administrative Magistrate Kenneth Bresler. James  
11 Paikos represents the petitioner. Dr. Padmanabhan  
12 represents himself. The parties' representatives  
13 are present. All electronic devices that make  
14 noise should be off.  
15 Are we ready to resume testimony, or is  
16 there anything else?  
17 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes, we're ready. Doctor  
18 --  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Let me just remind  
20 Dr. Levin, you're still under oath.  
21 **THE WITNESS:** Yes, sir.  
22 RESUMED DIRECT EXAMINATION  
23 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) And Doctor, if you could  
24 go to 1465, 1466, medical record number, Bates 356

Page 527

1 and 357?  
2 **A. I have reviewed these records.**  
3 Q. Can you assess Dr. Padmanabhan's care on  
4 that date, April 6th, 2010?  
5 **A. The care was below the standard of care.**  
6 Q. Why?  
7 **A. Reviewing the history, there's a note that**  
8 **the patient came in for trigger point injections of**  
9 **the neck, received medication with immediate**  
10 **relief. She is reporting that she's very sleepy**  
11 **and tired, less pain since the IVIg. There is no**  
12 **other history. This patient has multiple problems.**  
13 **We have no details about these problems. She is on**  
14 **other medications. Those are not listed. It's an**  
15 **incomplete history. The examination is listed as**  
16 **being unchanged. In a patient with her multiple**  
17 **neurological problems, this is below the standard**  
18 **of care. We would expect there to be a**  
19 **neurological examination, as previously discussed.**  
20 **Assessment is muscle spasm. There is no other**  
21 **information other than delayed sleep, no comment on**  
22 **the multiple previous problems that have been**  
23 **described. There have been many different**  
24 **problems, changing diagnoses in the progress notes.**

Page 528

1 **This is another -- I believe this is the first time**  
2 **we're seeing this as a single diagnosis, a single**  
3 **assessment, and we have no other information about**  
4 **her previous diagnoses. The plan -- excuse me.**  
5 **There's also a note, overall, a bit better. The**  
6 **plan is --**  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** That's vague. Am I  
8 right?  
9 **A. Yes, sir.**  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Overall is vague and a  
11 bit better is vague?  
12 **A. That's correct. The plan, the only plan**  
13 **that I could see for medication is will take**  
14 **Somnote for a few days. Somnote, also known as**  
15 **chloral hydrate, is a sleeping medication. It's**  
16 **one that isn't used very much any more. I believe**  
17 **actually it was unavailable, because it wasn't on**  
18 **the formulary for this patient's insurance. I**  
19 **believe for Mass. Health, it wasn't on the**  
20 **insurance, because it was felt to be ineffective.**  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Ineffective in general  
22 or for this patient?  
23 **A. Ineffective for treating sleep disturbance.**  
24 **It's a medicine with many side effects. Some of**

Page 529

1 **them can be quite significant. It leads to**  
2 **sedation. There's no other information about any**  
3 **of the other medicines the patient is being**  
4 **prescribed, yet she is being prescribed or has been**  
5 **prescribed a large number of different medications,**  
6 **including the intravenous IVIg that's being**  
7 **prescribed, a number of potentially very toxic**  
8 **medications. We have no information about what she**  
9 **is being prescribed, the dosages, what the plan is**  
10 **for the prescription. There is an interesting note**  
11 **from the nurse, Marianne Richard. Blood pressure,**  
12 **84 over 60 sitting, 88 over 64 lying flat, so her**  
13 **blood pressure is low and she complains of extreme**  
14 **fatigue. I would be suspicious that some of her**  
15 **fatigue may relate to her blood pressure being low**  
16 **and blood pressure being low frequently is a side**  
17 **effect of medication. Given the multiple**  
18 **medications that she is on, I think it is likely**  
19 **that that may relate to medication effect. There**  
20 **would be concern that she is now being prescribed a**  
21 **sleeping medicine in addition to all of her other**  
22 **medications; could possibly lower her blood**  
23 **pressure even more.**  
24 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) Is there any indication of

Page 530

1 who is prescribing the sleep medication?  
2 **A. Doctor has a note here that -- I assume**  
3 **that's what he's saying. Will take Somnote for a**  
4 **few days to resync. It does not say I will**  
5 **prescribe. It does not say this medicine is being**  
6 **prescribed at this dose to be taken in such a way,**  
7 **this number of pills, this many refills. It only**  
8 **says will take Somnote, so I don't know if someone**  
9 **else prescribed it, if she already had it, or if**  
10 **he's prescribing it now.**  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And what does resync  
12 mean to you?  
13 **A. To help her resynchronize her sleeping**  
14 **pattern by -- she's staying up until 2 o'clock in**  
15 **the morning every day. Resync to me would indicate**  
16 **that he's trying to help her fall asleep so that**  
17 **she can resume a more normal sleep cycle.**  
18 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you, Dr. Levin.  
19 Thank you Mr. Paikos. I have more questions on  
20 this page before you leave it, but I wanted to turn  
21 the questioning back to you.  
22 **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) The IVIg, is that**  
23 **something indicated for muscle spasms?**  
24 **A. No.**

Page 531

1 **Q. What is it for, if you could?**  
2 **A. IVIg is a -- an immune medication. It's a**  
3 **very strong medicine. It's produced by pooling the**  
4 **immunoglobulins from different people to help treat**  
5 **serious immunological disorders. It isn't used for**  
6 **many neurological disorders. It is used for a**  
7 **couple of neurological disorders. It is used for a**  
8 **condition called Guillain-Barre, which affects**  
9 **nerves and the nerve roots as they comes out of the**  
10 **spinal cord. It causes a descending paralysis, so**  
11 **severe weakness. Some people develop persistent**  
12 **weakness that's called CIDP, chronic inflammatory**  
13 **demyelinating neuropathy, or polyneuropathy, and**  
14 **IVIg is used for that as well. It's a chronic**  
15 **neuropathic condition. As well, it's used for a**  
16 **condition called myasthenia gravis that causes**  
17 **severe muscle weakness. Those are the main**  
18 **conditions in neurology that IVIg is used for.**  
19 **It's used for other serious immune conditions.**  
20 **It's used as well with rheumatologic disorders. I**  
21 **believe those are the main things. I do have a**  
22 **handout. I could review that if you wish.**  
23 **Q. Not currently. We may.**  
24 **A. I'm sorry. I think you asked me about side**

Page 532

1 **effects as well.**  
2 **Q. Right. Side effects. Yeah.**  
3 **A. It's a medicine that can lead to severe**  
4 **side effects. If I may, I don't recall all the**  
5 **side effects, so I'm referring to the handout that**  
6 **I gave to Mr. Paikos.**  
7 **Q. Doctor, if -- the document that you have in**  
8 **front of you, what is the title of the document?**  
9 **A. Handwritten at the top, it says IVIg Up To**  
10 **Date.**  
11 **Q. Okay.**  
12 **A. This is an article that I printed from Up**  
13 **To Date, the online textbook that I discussed. I**  
14 **had some difficulty printing it, so I printed out**  
15 **part of it and put the title at the top in my own**  
16 **writing.**  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Let me just ask  
18 Dr. Padmanabhan, are you familiar with that source  
19 and do you have access to it?  
20 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, but they have  
21 provided the printout.  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you.  
23 **MR. PAIKOS:** That's at Exhibit 23B.  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you.

Page 533

1 **A. Careful monitoring of patients newly**  
2 **receiving IVIg by a health care provider who is**  
3 **familiar with signs and symptoms of IVIg reactions**  
4 **is recommended. Side effects can include**  
5 **anaphylaxis, severe allergic reactions, headaches**  
6 **and neurologic side effects. It can lead to**  
7 **infections, including some serious infections. It**  
8 **can lead to thrombotic complications, stroke, heart**  
9 **attacks.**  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If I could interrupt  
11 you, Dr. Levin? What's the tab number? And have I  
12 been pronouncing your name correctly?  
13 **MR. PAIKOS:** 23B is the tab number.  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And have I been  
15 pronouncing your name correctly?  
16 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Paikos?  
18 **MR. PAIKOS:** Paikos.  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so I have 23B in  
20 front of me. Dr. Levin, are there side effects  
21 that you want to particularly draw my attention to?  
22 **A. There are a couple more. There are renal**  
23 **complications including acute renal failure can**  
24 **occur. There can be severe hematologic**

Page 534

1 complications, including severe anemia and severe  
2 hemolysis, breakdown of the blood products. So  
3 this is a medication that can really lead to quite  
4 severe complications, one that we don't prescribe  
5 lightly, and it is typically prescribed for only a  
6 very few specific conditions.  
7 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) And do you -- going back  
8 to Medical Record 146, 357, is part of the standard  
9 of care when prescribing this medication or any  
10 medication to inform the patient of the side  
11 effects?  
12 A. Yes.  
13 Q. And to confirm that in the record?  
14 A. Yes.  
15 Q. And why do you tell the patient about the  
16 side effects?  
17 A. Well, for any medication, we want the  
18 patient to know the side effects, and so if they  
19 are having problems, first of all, to be warned  
20 that these problems may occur; if they're having  
21 problems, for them to be aware of them. If the  
22 problems are not severe, they may be able to  
23 continue the medicine. You want them to be able to  
24 call you if there are severe side effects or if

Page 535

1 there are effects from the medication that are  
2 detrimental to them. In a medication like IVIg,  
3 you particularly want the patient to be aware of  
4 the potential for severe side effects, so if they  
5 have these side effects, they will contact you and  
6 the medication will be discontinued and you will  
7 provide them the proper treatment, if needed.  
8 Q. And this is from a note we were looking at,  
9 April 6th, 2010. And if I could direct your  
10 attention to Medical Record Number 2100, which is  
11 at Bates 478 --  
12 A. 2100?  
13 Q. Yes. As I said, we are looking at an  
14 April 6th, 2010, note and this is --  
15 THE MAGISTRATE: Actually, Mr. Paikos,  
16 if I could ask the doctor a question about the  
17 previous document? It's not noted what the IVIg is  
18 being prescribed for, right?  
19 A. That is correct.  
20 THE MAGISTRATE: And if the pain is  
21 better, that's a beneficial side effect, but we  
22 don't know whether it's prescribed for pain?  
23 A. We don't.  
24 THE MAGISTRATE: And we don't know

Page 536

1 where the pain is?  
2 A. That's correct.  
3 THE MAGISTRATE: Thank you.  
4 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) Does IVIg relieve pain?  
5 A. It's a difficult question to answer,  
6 because IVIg is used for many different conditions.  
7 Guillain-Barré would be the neurological condition  
8 that I'm familiar with that IVIg can be used for.  
9 Some patients with Guillain-Barré may have pain.  
10 If the Guillain-Barré, the neuropathic process, is  
11 improved by the IVIg, I would assume that their  
12 pain would also be improved. It is not a  
13 medication that is prescribed for pain per se. If  
14 pain is a part of the condition that's being  
15 treated, then I would assume that the pain may be  
16 improved.  
17 Q. Okay. It's not a narcotic or a  
18 non-steroidal -- steroid medication that's used  
19 specifically for pain?  
20 A. No.  
21 Q. But it may result in some relief,  
22 potentially? So going back to Medical Record 2100,  
23 March 3rd, 2010, order form, approximately one  
24 month prior to the April 6th note we were looking

Page 537

1 at, Privigen, is that IVIg?  
2 A. I am not familiar with the term Privigen.  
3 Above the word Privigen, in parentheses, it says  
4 IVIg, so I'm assuming that Privigen is a name of a  
5 form of IVIg.  
6 Q. And here on this order form, it says DG CNS  
7 inflammatory disease. Is that different from  
8 muscle spasms that we see about a month later?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 Q. And I think you've talked about CNS  
11 inflammatory disease, but is it -- what is it?  
12 THE MAGISTRATE: I think he has talked  
13 about it.  
14 MR. PAIKOS: Okay, so we won't repeat.  
15 THE MAGISTRATE: And DG stands for?  
16 A. Diagnosis.  
17 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) Now going forward again,  
18 the day after that April 6th, 2010, note at Medical  
19 Record 1471, Bates 359, you had talked about issue  
20 relative to insurance. Is this --  
21 THE MAGISTRATE: I'm sorry, Mr. Paikos.  
22 Which Bates number?  
23 MR. PAIKOS: 359, Medical Record 1471.  
24 THE MAGISTRATE: Doctor, before we

Page 538

1 leave Bates 478 -- Doctor, are you at Medical  
2 Record 2100?  
3 **A. I can go there.**  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Yeah, before you leave  
5 it, I want to ask a question.  
6 **A. I have that page.**  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. Do you see the  
8 cross-out at the top of the page?  
9 **A. I do.**  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** What does that  
11 indicate to you?  
12 **A. There are three medications that are**  
13 **crossed out. Benadryl and Tylenol are the second**  
14 **and third, and those are also written in the**  
15 **bottom, so it suggests to me that the cross-out is**  
16 **not for those two medicines. Privigen is listed as**  
17 **600 milligrams per kilogram IV once. That is**  
18 **crossed out and a different dose for Privigen is**  
19 **written at the bottom, 36 milligrams IV ten percent**  
20 **solution start at 60 milliliters per hour. That**  
21 **appears to be a different prescription for the**  
22 **medication.**  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So it appears on the  
24 same date, 35 minutes apart, the doctor changed his

Page 539

1 mind for some reason and just reissued it?  
2 **A. That is what appears to be.**  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you.  
4 **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS)** Now, if we go to Medical  
5 Record 1471, Bates 359, you were discussing the day  
6 earlier the doctor had prescribed a sleep  
7 medication and mentioned something about insurance.  
8 Is this where you received that information?  
9 **A. Yes.**  
10 **Q.** And Mass. Health has it on a list of -- as  
11 ineffective; is that correct?  
12 **A. Yes.**  
13 **Q.** If we go to Medical Record 2024, Bates 417,  
14 if we could look at that in conjunction with  
15 Medical Record 1494, which is at Bates 360? So  
16 again, Medical Record 2024, which is at Bates 417  
17 and Medical Record 1494 at Bates 360. If you could  
18 look at those pages once you have them?  
19 **A. I have reviewed these records.**  
20 **Q.** And is Dr. Padmanabhan's care on April 21,  
21 2010, within the standard of care?  
22 **A. Excuse me. Just to confirm, at the top of**  
23 **the page, it says ENC, period, date. I'm assuming**  
24 **that means encounter date is 5 -- excuse me;**

Page 540

1 **4/21/2010, and then I see progress notes from the**  
2 **doctor signed 5/3/2010. May I assume that that is**  
3 **the encounter from 4/21/2010?**  
4 **Q.** For the purposes of this, you could assume  
5 that. And is there also a note from Nurse Marianne  
6 Richard signed at 4/21 --  
7 **A. There is.**  
8 **Q.** -- 2010?  
9 **A. There is.**  
10 **Q.** If you could review those two pages in  
11 conjunction?  
12 **A. I have reviewed those two pages.**  
13 **Q.** And what is your opinion of the care  
14 provided?  
15 **A. Care provided was below the standard of**  
16 **care.**  
17 **Q.** And why?  
18 **A. The history given is very limited. Note is**  
19 **that the IVIg drip helped her systemic symptoms.**  
20 **We don't know what symptoms are being described.**  
21 **She comes in to ask for another -- I don't know**  
22 **what another refers to; I assume it's IVI drip, but**  
23 **I don't know for sure -- and decide on this as an**  
24 **ongoing plan. We had a full discussion of all of**

Page 541

1 **her treatment options. It's a vague statement. I**  
2 **don't know what treatment options were discussed.**  
3 **I don't know what the treatment options were for.**  
4 **There was no mention of any of her multiple medical**  
5 **diagnoses, her multiple medical problems. Just a**  
6 **note here, given that she is not allergic to it and**  
7 **has responded well, I think it is reasonable. I**  
8 **don't know what that refers to. I'm assuming it**  
9 **refers to IVIg, but again, I don't know for sure.**  
10 **There is no examination. This type of complex**  
11 **patient would require a neurological examination.**  
12 **There's no examination here. There really is no**  
13 **impression. We don't know the diagnosis that he's**  
14 **treating. We don't know what his impression is in**  
15 **terms of what's happening with the patient and**  
16 **where it's going to go. There is no information in**  
17 **regards to pain. There is no information in**  
18 **regards to any of the medications that he's**  
19 **prescribing. There is a note from the nurse,**  
20 **Marianne Richard, that patient complains of**  
21 **generalized joint pain and headaches, fatigue.**  
22 **Again, that is not in the doctor's note. We don't**  
23 **know any of the medications prescribed.**  
24 **Looking at the order of 4/21/2010,**

Page 542

1 there is an order for Percocet, for the patient to  
2 be given two pills now. I don't know why that was  
3 prescribed. Again, I don't know any of the other  
4 medicines that were prescribed.  
5 Q. And on that order form, there's a note.  
6 Looks like 1300 hours in different handwriting?  
7 A. **There is a note stating not given, not in**  
8 **stock, signed by a nurse.**  
9 Q. Okay. And that is below Dr. Padmanabhan's  
10 signature?  
11 A. **It is.**  
12 Q. Would that presume that that note came  
13 after that order from the doctor?  
14 A. **Yes.**  
15 Q. Would it be important to note the reason  
16 for giving the prescription and wanting the patient  
17 to have it now?  
18 A. **Yes.**  
19 Q. And why?  
20 A. **Any time a medication is prescribed, you**  
21 **want to know the reason that it's prescribed. In**  
22 **this case, it appears to be an acute prescription**  
23 **of a narcotic. Any time a narcotic is prescribed,**  
24 **it's important to document the reason for it. Any**

Page 543

1 time a narcotic is prescribed as an acute  
2 treatment, it would be particularly important to  
3 know why that's being prescribed, what is the  
4 indication, what is the purpose of the  
5 prescription.  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And the indication  
7 that it's acute, is that in effect -- it looks like  
8 it's supposed to be provided in the hospital.  
9 A. **That's what it appears to be. It appears**  
10 **he's prescribed two pills of Percocet to be given**  
11 **to the patient now.**  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Now, right.  
13 A. **To be given now. It's a very unusual**  
14 **prescription. I don't know what the routine is at**  
15 **the center, Cambridge Health Alliance Center. I**  
16 **really don't know anything about Cambridge Health**  
17 **Alliance, so I don't know if this is an outpatient**  
18 **facility, if they have a hospital. This is the**  
19 **type of order I would normally see in the emergency**  
20 **room or in the hospital. I don't believe I've ever**  
21 **seen one for an outpatient facility.**  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So this is an order as  
23 opposed to here's a prescription for the patient;  
24 go to the pharmacy and fill it?

Page 544

1 A. **That's correct. Please send up -- please**  
2 **get two pills of Percocet and give it to the**  
3 **patient now.**  
4 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) If we go to Medical  
5 Record 1532 --  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, before you  
7 move on, I'd like to ask the doctor a question  
8 about Medical Record 1494, Bates 360, encounter  
9 date of April 21, 2010. Is there any indication  
10 that the doctor responded to the note by the nurse?  
11 A. **No.**  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And then the nurse's  
13 note, what does FU today mean?  
14 A. **Follow-up today.**  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And what does that  
16 mean to you in the context of this page?  
17 A. **That the patient is appearing for a**  
18 **follow-up visit.**  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And in your  
20 experience, would the patient be meeting with the  
21 nurse before meeting with the doctor?  
22 A. **I don't know what the routine is at this**  
23 **particular facility. I think in most cases, that**  
24 **would be what would occur, that the nurse would see**

Page 545

1 the patient, take some history, and then the doctor  
2 would see the patient afterwards, but I don't know  
3 what's done at this facility.  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So no apparent  
5 discussion by the doctor of -- or assessment or  
6 plan on generalized joint pain and headaches and  
7 fatigue?  
8 A. **Unless you relate that to the term systemic**  
9 **symptoms. Systemic symptoms takes -- is sort of a**  
10 **vague and non-specific term that could take into --**  
11 **into account almost any symptom in the body, so you**  
12 **could say systemic symptoms could include**  
13 **generalized joint pain. It wouldn't typically be**  
14 **headaches.**  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Then again, the nurse  
16 is reporting complaints of generalized joint pain,  
17 headaches and fatigue, and the doctor is saying  
18 helped her systemic symptoms, so what do you make  
19 -- what do you make of that?  
20 A. **There is no mention in the doctor's note as**  
21 **to her present problems.**  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And do you have a  
23 reaction, considering the side effects that IVIg  
24 can have, to the statement, given that she's not

Page 546

1 allergic to it and has responded well, I think it  
2 is reasonable?  
3 **A. I think the prescription of IVIg is not**  
4 **reasonable. I think it's a very unusual**  
5 **prescription, given the patient's symptoms, given**  
6 **the patient's examination, given her diagnosis. I**  
7 **think it's an unusual prescription that is below**  
8 **the standard of care. It is not the type of**  
9 **prescription that a neurologist would normally**  
10 **provide. It is below the standard of care for a**  
11 **neurologist to order IVIg for a patient who has**  
12 **this clinical picture.**  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Are there criteria  
14 other than not being allergic to it and responding  
15 well to it that should go into an assessment that  
16 it's reasonable to prescribe this?  
17 **A. The proper diagnosis. The proper diagnosis**  
18 **and having the proper indication for use of this**  
19 **medication. As I mentioned, as far as I know,**  
20 **there are only three different neurologic disorders**  
21 **that this is typically used for. There may be**  
22 **others that I don't know of. It is used in other**  
23 **specialties as well, but this is not a medication**  
24 **that's commonly used for neurologic conditions.**

Page 547

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Would the potential  
2 for side effects be a criterion in deciding whether  
3 it is reasonable?  
4 **A. Yes.**  
5 **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS)** Are any of the side  
6 effects fatigue?  
7 **A. I would have to go back and look at the**  
8 **listed side effects. I would be surprised if**  
9 **fatigue is not a side effect.**  
10 **Q.** And joint pain, what is generalized joint  
11 pain that the nurse describes?  
12 **A. It would be non-specific complaints by the**  
13 **patient that she is experiencing discomfort in her**  
14 **joints. It doesn't tell us which joints. It says**  
15 **that she pretty much hurts all over.**  
16 **Q.** And is joint pain potentially a  
17 rheumatological issue?  
18 **A. Yes.**  
19 **Q.** And is this the case where we had seen a  
20 rheumatologist assess whether or not the patient  
21 had rheumatological inflammation, I believe?  
22 **A. Yes.**  
23 **Q.** And what had that rheumatologist concluded?  
24 **A. He found no evidence of any rheumatologic**

Page 548

1 **disorder and he's very specifically listing the**  
2 **different types of rheumatologic disorders that she**  
3 **did not have.**  
4 **Q.** And he had reviewed an MRI and concluded no  
5 inflammation?  
6 **A. I'm sorry. I would have to go back to**  
7 **review that. I don't recall.**  
8 **Q.** Okay. We may go back, but we'll go forward  
9 to something listed as an encounter date of eight  
10 May --  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, if I could  
12 interject, I do want to follow up on Dr. Levin  
13 saying that he didn't have the Up To Date excerpt  
14 for IVIg in front of him. So if we could turn to  
15 that, please?  
16 **A. I have it.**  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So I am looking at  
18 Bates number 559. I don't know if you have that,  
19 Doctor, that number. It looks like page seven on  
20 the fax.  
21 **A. May I ask what the top line of the page is?**  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Ranging from less than  
23 two to greater than 700.  
24 **A. I do have that.**

Page 549

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so what do you  
2 see in terms of headache being a possible side  
3 effect?  
4 **A. That migraine and aseptic meningitis are**  
5 **side effects. Headache is a common side effect of**  
6 **IVIg.**  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And do you see  
8 anything in this excerpt about fatigue being a  
9 possible side effect, or even joint pain?  
10 **A. I do not.**  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So there is -- you see  
12 nothing in the excerpt about IVIg having a side  
13 effect of joint pain or fatigue?  
14 **A. I do not.**  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** There -- now, how  
16 common is headache to be a side effect for  
17 medications?  
18 **A. Not uncommon.**  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Not uncommon? Given  
20 that headaches is -- headaches are a side effect of  
21 IVIg, given that headaches are not an uncommon side  
22 effect of medications in general, and then what  
23 we're seeing at Medical Record 1494, Bates 360, the  
24 nurse reporting that the patient is reporting

Page 550

1 headaches, how does that all coalesce in what your  
2 assessment is whether this is a reasonable  
3 medication to be giving to this patient?  
4 **A. With specific reference to headaches, it's**  
5 **hard for me to state whether or not she's having**  
6 **more headaches because of the IVIg or not. She has**  
7 **a history of chronic headaches, so this is a**  
8 **patient who has had many headaches prior to the**  
9 **prescription of IVIg. I cannot rule out the**  
10 **possibility that her headaches are worse given that**  
11 **headache is a common side effect of IVIg. I think**  
12 **the issue of headaches is a much less concerning**  
13 **issue than the prescription of the medication**  
14 **itself. I think IVIg, as far as I could tell from**  
15 **review of the records, there was no indication for**  
16 **prescription of this medication. It was given**  
17 **frequently. It was given in regular cycles of**  
18 **treatment. And the indications, as far as I could**  
19 **tell, were below the standard of care, that this**  
20 **medication should not have been prescribed for this**  
21 **particular patient, but once again, whether this**  
22 **made her headaches worse or not, I can't state. It**  
23 **is possible they did.**  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So headache being a

Page 551

1 side effect of IVIg, the patient reporting  
2 headaches, the patient having chronic headaches,  
3 that by itself, that package of facts is not an  
4 indication that prescribing IVIg was below the  
5 standard of care?  
6 **A. That's correct.**  
7 **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS)** If we could go to Medical  
8 Record 1432, Bates 365? If you could review that  
9 note and assess if it's within the standard of  
10 care?  
11 **A. Once again, and I -- perhaps to clarify**  
12 **this and I won't ask you the same question over**  
13 **again. The encounter date is listed as 5/4, as is**  
14 **the note from the nurse on the bottom. The note**  
15 **from the doctor is listed as 5/9/2010, so I'm going**  
16 **to assume that each of the notes that I am looking**  
17 **at will be the encounter date rather than the date**  
18 **they were signed.**  
19 **Q.** We'll make that presumption currently,  
20 yeah.  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And if the presumption  
22 is not correct, do the dates matter to your case?  
23 **MR. PAIKOS:** I don't think they do. I  
24 don't think they do.

Page 552

1 **A. I have reviewed the record and this is**  
2 **below the standard of care.**  
3 **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS)** And why?  
4 **A. Looking at the history, we have a very**  
5 **brief limited history, that she's here to discuss**  
6 **the plan going forward, has benefited from IVIg**  
7 **treatments. There is no information about the**  
8 **symptoms. There's no information about any of her**  
9 **multiple diagnoses that she's been given. We don't**  
10 **know what her clinical symptoms are at this point.**  
11 **There's a statement that she's benefited from the**  
12 **IVIg treatments, but we don't know how. We don't**  
13 **know what symptoms this has helped to improve.**  
14 **It's a vague statement that doesn't give us any**  
15 **information at all. After a long discussion, we**  
16 **have elected to continue the IVIg every six to**  
17 **eight weeks. Again, this is a very powerful**  
18 **treatment, and as far as I can see, there is no**  
19 **explanation for why this is being given or any**  
20 **concerns about the possible toxicity of the**  
21 **medication. There is no other history. There is**  
22 **no neurological examination. Once again, this is a**  
23 **patient whose clinical assessment required a**  
24 **neurological examination as previously described.**

Page 553

1 **There is no impression. We have no impression**  
2 **about the patient at all. The plan is -- is part**  
3 **of the history, to continue the IVIg every six to**  
4 **eight weeks. There's also a note that she received**  
5 **trigger point injections during this visit. There**  
6 **is no indication of why the trigger point**  
7 **injections were given. We don't know the diagnosis**  
8 **for the trigger point injections and there's no**  
9 **other information about plan, including no other**  
10 **medications, and this is a patient who in further**  
11 **review appears to have been receiving multiple**  
12 **different medications. There's no indication here**  
13 **of anything that she has been -- is receiving, no**  
14 **prescription information at all.**  
15 **Q.** And what does the nursing note indicate?  
16 **A. Follow-up for generalized pain, quote,**  
17 **autoimmune, unquote, disorder. She is not sure if**  
18 **she needs medication refill.**  
19 **Q.** What is autoimmune, quote/unquote,  
20 disorder?  
21 **A. Autoimmune, the term autoimmune refers to**  
22 **the immune process we discussed previously where**  
23 **the body protects itself from outside invaders.**  
24 **The body protects itself from attack from the**

Page 554

1 outside. Sometimes the body makes a mistake and  
2 will attack normal tissue. When that happens, it's  
3 referred to as an autoimmune process, or if it's a  
4 condition or a disease, an autoimmune disorder.  
5 Typically, we will not say autoimmune disorder as a  
6 general term. Typically, there's an autoimmune  
7 disorder that we're concerned about. There are  
8 many autoimmune disorders. Rheumatoid arthritis,  
9 lupus erythematosus, these are autoimmune  
10 disorders. She then wrote, she is not sure if she  
11 needs medication refill. There's no indication  
12 what that refers to. She had been prescribed  
13 multiple medicines. I don't know what medicines  
14 those -- she's requesting a refill on.  
15 Q. And are autoimmune rheumatological or  
16 neurological, potentially, or does that not fit  
17 into that category?  
18 A. There are many autoimmune disorders that  
19 affect the nervous system. MS is very likely an  
20 autoimmune disorder. There are more common  
21 conditions like Bell's palsy, which is an  
22 autoimmune disorder, Guillain-Barré that I  
23 mentioned before, chronic inflammatory  
24 demyelinating polyneuropathy, myasthenia. These

Page 555

1 are all autoimmune disorders. There are many, many  
2 neurological autoimmune disorders.  
3 Q. The consult from the rheumatologist, do you  
4 remember if he discussed rheumatological disorders  
5 or autoimmune disorders?  
6 A. He did.  
7 Q. And if we could go to Medical Record 384,  
8 Bates 301, the second part of that May 18th, 2008,  
9 note by Dr. Romain?  
10 A. I do have page 384.  
11 Q. Okay. And under impressions, did  
12 Dr. Romain rule out autoimmune issues?  
13 A. The impression from Dr. Romain is I do not  
14 find evidence of articular disease specifically, or  
15 any systemic autoimmune or inflammatory  
16 rheumatologic disorder.  
17 Q. If your -- if the diagnosis of doctor -- of  
18 another physician is different than yours, would it  
19 be important to note why you've diagnosed someone  
20 with something that wasn't there before?  
21 A. Yes.  
22 Q. Are there any studies, different studies,  
23 that show autoimmune that you've seen in the record  
24 up until that day?

Page 556

1 A. I'm sorry. Any studies that indicate an  
2 autoimmune disorder?  
3 Q. Yes, up until the time of that nursing note  
4 on May 4th, 2010, if you remember.  
5 A. No.  
6 Q. So turning to two pages, the first one is  
7 at Medical Record 2099 and Bates 477, and if you  
8 could --  
9 A. I have page 2099.  
10 Q. 2099, which is Bates 477, and if you could  
11 also go to Medical Record 1565, which is at  
12 Bates 366?  
13 A. I have reviewed these records.  
14 Q. And if you could also look at -- and I  
15 apologize for not knowing it earlier -- Medical  
16 Record 1570, Bates 367, which is after the computer  
17 note, the EMR note?  
18 A. This is dated 5/26/2010?  
19 Q. Yes.  
20 A. I do have that as well.  
21 Q. Okay, so -- and that page has a  
22 prescription approved by Dr. Padmanabhan for  
23 Percocet. If you could review these pages and  
24 state whether or not the care or -- provided or the

Page 557

1 advice given was within the standard of care?  
2 A. The first note that I have is a report from  
3 -- a progress note from a Nurse Ruth Krause,  
4 K-R-A-U-S-E, RN, and she describes this as being  
5 the patient's third IVIg infusion that she feels  
6 has helped her. Vital signs are stable. Discussed  
7 the possibility of increasing the rate of infusion.  
8 This is not a note from the doctor. This is a note  
9 from the nurse. Do you wish me to comment on the  
10 nurse's note?  
11 Q. And there's a comment relative to  
12 Dr. Padmanabhan coming in briefly to talk with the  
13 patient?  
14 A. She states that the doctor came in to the  
15 treatment room to briefly talk with patient.  
16 Q. And at Medical Record 2099 from that day,  
17 Dr. Padmanabhan provided an order for IVIg?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. And how -- what's the frequency of the IVIg  
20 at the bottom of that note or that order?  
21 A. Repeat monthly for one year. Start date,  
22 3/18/2010.  
23 Q. And was the care or advice provided that  
24 day within the standard of care?

Page 558

1 **A. There is no indication from the records**  
2 **that I have that any advice was provided other than**  
3 **the nurse stating that the doctor briefly spoke**  
4 **with the patient. The care advice -- excuse me.**  
5 **The care that was provided was below the standard**  
6 **of care. The care that was provided was**  
7 **prescription of IVIg, which for reasons previously**  
8 **discussed is below the standard of care for this**  
9 **patient. The diagnosis listed is CNS inflammatory**  
10 **disease. This is a vague diagnosis that relates**  
11 **more to the pathological process than to a**  
12 **neurological disease. As previously discussed,**  
13 **that would be below the standard of care in terms**  
14 **of making a diagnosis by a neurologist and using**  
15 **that diagnosis as the rationale for treatment with**  
16 **IVIg. In addition, there is a prescription for**  
17 **Percocet with no clinical information in any of the**  
18 **records that I could find around this date. That**  
19 **would be below the standard of care.**  
20 **Q.** And just to make it a little easier  
21 logistically, we'll come back to Medical  
22 Record 2099 for the Solumedrol part of it from  
23 July 15, 2010.  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And where is the

Page 559

1 Percocet on Medical Record 2099?  
2 **MR. PAIKOS:** It's not on 2099. It's on  
3 Medical Record 1570, Bates 357, with an encounter  
4 date of May 26th, 2010.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. I see it.  
6 Thank you.  
7 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Objection.  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Basis?  
9 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Different dates. The  
10 date on 1570 is June 6th, and we are talking about  
11 an encounter from May 26. I don't see the  
12 relevance. I don't see why the government has put  
13 these two together.  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Well, I see, because  
15 the encounter date is the same, but you can raise  
16 it during your case or -- either on  
17 cross-examination or by testifying about it.  
18 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Did you say the  
19 encounter date is the same, Your Honor?  
20 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm looking at Medical  
21 Records 1565 and 1570, Bates 366 and 367, and the  
22 encounter date is the same. You can bring it up  
23 during your case.  
24 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Thank you.

Page 560

1 **Q.** (BY MR. PAIKOS) Now, if we go to Medical  
2 Record --  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, if I could  
4 interject? Dr. Levin, a question about 1565,  
5 Bates 366.  
6 **A. 1565?**  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** 1565. So the nurse is  
8 talking about tolerating the medication. What does  
9 that mean to you?  
10 **A. That the medication -- she notes that the**  
11 **-- she is not experiencing significant side effects**  
12 **from the medication.**  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So this is an  
14 indication that side effects are being monitored?  
15 **A. Yes.**  
16 **Q.** (BY MR. PAIKOS) If you could go to Medical  
17 Record 1608, which has an encounter date of 6/17/10  
18 and a note by Dr. Padmanabhan on 6/17/10?  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Which page, please?  
20 **MR. PAIKOS:** Medical Record 1608,  
21 6/17/10, please.  
22 **A. I have reviewed this note and it is below**  
23 **the standard of care.**  
24 **Q.** (BY MR. PAIKOS) And why?

Page 561

1 **A. There's a note that the patient came in for**  
2 **Botox in her neck with cervical dystonia, but**  
3 **there's no previous indication that I can recall of**  
4 **a diagnosis of cervical dystonia. There is a note**  
5 **that she tolerated it well. There is no other**  
6 **history. There's no history of previous problems**  
7 **with cervical dystonia. There's no history of her**  
8 **other multiple problems, no history of pain**  
9 **problems, no history of her headaches, no mention**  
10 **of her receiving IVIg or Solumedrol or any other**  
11 **medications. There's no other history at all.**  
12 **There's no examination, so we don't know, did she**  
13 **have evidence of cervical dystonia on her exam, did**  
14 **she have some other neurological abnormality. The**  
15 **impression was that she tolerated it well, usually**  
16 **feels better in a couple of days. And there's no**  
17 **plan, so we don't know what his plan for the -- for**  
18 **the patient is. Typically, when a prescription or**  
19 **a treatment of Botox is given, there would be a**  
20 **note, patient to call if she has side effects, side**  
21 **effects were discussed with the patient. There's**  
22 **no information about that here as well.**  
23 **Q.** Doctor, you talked about cervical dystonia  
24 I think yesterday, but that's a condition where

Page 562

1 your head comes down to your shoulder, in a sense?  
2 **A. Correct. The head and the neck will go to**  
3 **one side and involuntarily be held to that side.**  
4 Q. And is Botox something used typically for  
5 cervical dystonia?  
6 **A. Yes.**  
7 Q. And we talked a little bit about side  
8 effects and the nurse discussing her reaction. Can  
9 there be side effects in between the various  
10 injections of IVIg?  
11 **A. Yes.**  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Levin, on the same  
13 document, how important is it to note where the  
14 injections are?  
15 **A. It's the standard of care.**  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** To note where they  
17 are?  
18 **A. Correct.**  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And how does this  
20 report com-- comport with the standard of care?  
21 **A. It states six spots, three on -- three each**  
22 **side. It doesn't tell us specifically where the**  
23 **injections were. It just --**  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Does that comply with

Page 563

1 or not comply with the standard of care?  
2 **A. It does not comply with the standard of**  
3 **care.**  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** In a previous record  
5 we saw about two injections -- four injections, two  
6 on each side of the neck, how does that comply or  
7 not comply with the standard of care?  
8 **A. I believe the previous note was a diagram**  
9 **and the diagram put X's where the injections were**  
10 **given. It gives us a basic idea, but it really**  
11 **didn't give us the specifics in terms of where the**  
12 **injections were given. The pictures were hard to**  
13 **interpret. There were, I believe, injections in**  
14 **the neck as well as in the back. It was hard to**  
15 **know specifically where the injections were. That**  
16 **would be below the standard of care.**  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, I assume  
18 you have your notes and you can direct us back to  
19 the previous record that we were looking at?  
20 **MR. PAIKOS:** Relative to the diagrams?  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Injections. No, not  
22 diagrams. The injections. It may have been the  
23 previous set of documents that we were looking at.  
24 **MR. PAIKOS:** Relative to the nursing

Page 564

1 note? If we go to Medical Record 1565, 366 --  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, do you  
3 remember a medical record, four shots, two on each  
4 side of the neck? Is it this one or the one before  
5 this?  
6 **MR. PAIKOS:** Are you talking about the  
7 --  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Oh, you know what?  
9 It's Medical Record 1608, Bates 370. Six spots,  
10 three each side.  
11 **A. 1608?**  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Right.  
13 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) Dr. Levin, do you have  
14 that in front of you?  
15 **A. Yes, sir. I believe that's the present**  
16 **encounter that we've been discussing, page 16,**  
17 **right?**  
18 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Was there one before  
19 that?  
20 **MR. PAIKOS:** There was a diagram before  
21 that.  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** One without a diagram.  
23 If I'm remembering correctly, two sides -- I'm  
24 sorry. Four shots, two on each side.

Page 565

1 **A. Oh, I believe page 1465 discusses trigger**  
2 **point injections.**  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. Medical  
4 Record 1465, Bates 356. Came in for trigger point  
5 injections in her neck. Dr. Levin, is where the  
6 patient received trigger point injections  
7 important?  
8 **A. Yes. Yes.**  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Should it be noted  
10 here?  
11 **A. Yes.**  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Is there a standard  
13 number of trigger point injections, or --  
14 **A. No.**  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** -- should the number  
16 be noted?  
17 **A. There is not a standard number. The number**  
18 **of the injections and the specific location of the**  
19 **injections, it is standard of care to indicate that**  
20 **specific information about the injections.**  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Number and location --  
22 **A. Yes, sir.**  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** -- and dosage?  
24 **A. Correct.**

Page 566

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you.  
2 **A. That would also include the dosage for each**  
3 **injection.**  
4 **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS)** So on that, we were  
5 talking previously about the 6/17/2010 encounter,  
6 the Botox for the cervical dystonia at Medical  
7 Record 1608, Bates 370. And if you could go to  
8 Medical Record 2112 at Bates 482?  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If it's getting warm  
10 in here and if anybody wants to take a jacket off,  
11 that's okay.  
12 **A. I have that record.**  
13 **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS)** And that's also from  
14 June 17, 2010?  
15 **A. Yes, sir.**  
16 **Q.** And that has -- does that have all the  
17 information needed for -- for the Botox injections  
18 to be within the standard of care?  
19 **A. No.**  
20 **Q.** What is not there and what is there that  
21 should be there?  
22 **A. The 6/17/2010 report that I see on**  
23 **page 2112 is an order for Botox. It states**  
24 **Botox-A, 100 international units per vial. Please**

Page 567

1 **send two vials. So this is actually an order from**  
2 **the doctor to get the medication. The standard of**  
3 **care would not be for him to have listed other**  
4 **clinical information on this. This meets the**  
5 **standard of care for ordering a Botox vial.**  
6 **Q.** Does it give us more information that would  
7 change your opinion relative to the care that he  
8 provided when he ordered the Botox and didn't  
9 specify whether -- where it would be?  
10 **A. This does not change my opinion in regards**  
11 **to this progress note.**  
12 **Q.** Okay.  
13 **A. The progress note remains below the**  
14 **standard of care. His order of the Botox is within**  
15 **the standard of care.**  
16 **Q.** In other order forms, we may have seen a  
17 diagram. There's no diagram here.  
18 **A. I don't recall seeing a diagram on an order**  
19 **form. I do recall seeing diagrams in progress**  
20 **sheets.**  
21 **Q.** Okay.  
22 **A. But I may be mistaken.**  
23 **Q.** Well, there is no diagram here on this  
24 particular page?

Page 568

1 **A. No.**  
2 **Q.** Okay. And if we go to Medical Record 1665,  
3 1665, at Bates 371, if you could review that  
4 record?  
5 **A. I have reviewed this report of 6/29/2010**  
6 **and this is below the standard of care.**  
7 **Q.** Why?  
8 **A. History is limited. Indicates that the**  
9 **patient is to get IVIg today and that she has a**  
10 **good decrease in symptoms from IVIg and Solumedrol,**  
11 **but she still has pain. There's no indication as**  
12 **to what the specific symptoms are that are being**  
13 **addressed. We don't know what symptoms were**  
14 **improved. We don't know what the diagnosis was.**  
15 **There's no clinical information as to specifically**  
16 **why these medications are being prescribed. We**  
17 **don't know how often the Solumedrol is being given.**  
18 **We don't know the dosage of the Solumedrol.**  
19 **History indicates subjective at the neck, is very**  
20 **tight again. She feels like it's broken. Again,**  
21 **there's no other clinical information as to her**  
22 **clinical symptoms. Given her multiple neurologic**  
23 **symptoms, a more complete history would be standard**  
24 **of care. The examination, there is no neurological**

Page 569

1 **examination. As previously described, a**  
2 **neurological examination in a patient of this**  
3 **complexity would be the standard of care. There is**  
4 **no examination. Assessment is cervical dystonia**  
5 **and inflammation. Once again, there is no**  
6 **examination to indicate that she actually had**  
7 **cervical dystonia. I don't believe I saw any**  
8 **records in the entire chart indicating that the**  
9 **patient actually had documentation on examination**  
10 **of cervical dystonia. Other diagnosis is**  
11 **inflammation. It's a non-specific diagnosis. We**  
12 **don't know where the inflammation is. We don't**  
13 **know is he discussing CNS inflammation, general**  
14 **inflammation, inflammation in her neck related to**  
15 **the cervical dystonia. It's a vague statement.**  
16 **It's below the standard of care. The plan is will**  
17 **give Botox today, and there is no other specific**  
18 **information about the Botox. I don't know if there**  
19 **is another note about giving the Botox. If Botox**  
20 **was administered, then the standard of care would**  
21 **be to have a complete note for Botox. Any time**  
22 **Botox is administered, there should be a complete**  
23 **note giving the history as to why the Botox is**  
24 **being given, exactly where the Botox is given, the**

Page 570

1 amount that's given, specifying the exact area of  
2 the body that it's given in detail, and then  
3 discussing whether or not the patient has tolerated  
4 the treatment, has side effects, instructions to  
5 the patient. There is nothing here. Other plan is  
6 patient will continue on the drips for now. I have  
7 no idea what drips means. Presumably, that relates  
8 to other medications, possibly IVIg, possibly  
9 Solumedrol, one or the other. There's no  
10 indication specifically what that is particularly  
11 for the prescription of potentially very toxic  
12 medications. This is below the standard of care.  
13 There is no indication of prescription for other  
14 indications. When reviewing the records, the  
15 patient apparently did receive other medications,  
16 including narcotics, and there is no indication in  
17 this report.  
18 Q. Going to Medical Record Number 1694 and  
19 Bates 372, if you could assess that note and inform  
20 us if that's within the standard of care?  
21 A. Excuse me. Did you direct me to page 1695  
22 as well?  
23 Q. 1695, the note continues there, the nursing  
24 note, if you could read those two together.

Page 571

1 A. I have reviewed this report and the report  
2 from the doctor is below the standard of care.  
3 Q. And why?  
4 A. There is a brief note, comes in prior to  
5 her Solumedrol drip, had a long discussion in  
6 response to the anti-inflammatory therapies.  
7 There's no indication specifically which therapies  
8 he's referring to. The assumption would be IVIg  
9 and Solumedrol, but there were other medications  
10 prescribed. He isn't saying what the discussion  
11 included. He's not saying why she is being  
12 treated. We don't know her diagnosis. We don't  
13 know her reaction to the medication. There is a  
14 note that the Botox apparently reduces the  
15 dystonia, but revs up the joint pain, and there is  
16 no further history. A history would be required of  
17 a patient of this complexity. There is no  
18 neurological examination. The neurological  
19 examination is the standard of care for a patient  
20 with these multiple neurologic symptoms, as  
21 previously described. There is no impression. So  
22 no diagnosis, no impression, we don't know his  
23 thoughts at all about the patient, how the patient  
24 is doing in general. And then under plan, there is

Page 572

1 nothing listed as plan, but there is a note, she  
2 will continue on both IVIg and MP, which I'm  
3 assuming is Solumedrol, for now. There is a  
4 further note from Nurse Marianne Richard.  
5 Complains of unsteady gait, swaying left to right,  
6 neck and spine pain, eight slash ten, very  
7 lethargic, energy, poor. There is no note in the  
8 doctor's progress note of any of these complaints.  
9 Once again, these complaints would -- the standard  
10 of care would be for the patient to have a history  
11 of these problems, to have a careful neurological  
12 examination. We don't know if the symptoms,  
13 unsteady gait, swaying left to right, very  
14 lethargic, energy poor, are these symptoms of her  
15 neurological problem, does she have a neurological  
16 diagnosis that is causing these, or are these side  
17 effects from her multiple medications? It's not  
18 unlikely that it could be side effects, but we have  
19 no idea. We have no information. It's below the  
20 standard of care.  
21 Q. Is there anything in there about Percocet?  
22 A. No.  
23 Q. If you could go to that page, I would ask  
24 you to put aside Medical Record 2099, Bates 477,

Page 573

1 and that's a July 15th -- it's an order form that  
2 includes an order from July 15th, 2010, the date of  
3 this encounter.  
4 A. I have that record.  
5 Q. And what was ordered by Dr. Padmanabhan on  
6 that day?  
7 A. Solumedrol, one gram, 1,000 milligrams,  
8 Protonix, and Percocet.  
9 (Reporter clarification.)  
10 A. Solumedrol, one gram, 1,000 milligrams,  
11 Protonix and Percocet.  
12 Q. Does this order form change your assessment  
13 of the standard of care?  
14 A. No.  
15 Q. Should there be information relative that's  
16 here that would also need to be in the actual  
17 progress note?  
18 A. Yes.  
19 Q. And what is that?  
20 A. The dose of Solumedrol should be listed in  
21 the progress note. There is no indication that the  
22 Solumedrol was actually given, although there is a  
23 statement that she comes in prior to her Solumedrol  
24 drip. He does not indicate in his plan that he's

Page 574

1 **prescribing it. Patient was given two tablets of**  
2 **Percocet. There's no indication why she was given**  
3 **that. There's no prescription for the Percocet.**  
4 **He also prescribed Protonix. We don't know why**  
5 **that is. The presumption would be that he is**  
6 **protecting his patient's stomach from the**  
7 **Solumedrol, because Solumedrol, among its multiple**  
8 **significant side effects, it can cause stomach**  
9 **irritation and ulcer disease. That would be the**  
10 **presumption. There is no indication of that in the**  
11 **progress notes.**  
12 Q. If you could go to --  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, I'd like  
14 to interject.  
15 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes.  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Levin, before you  
17 put away Medical Record 2099, Bates 477, if a  
18 doctor is ordering medication for a patient during  
19 a visit, does the doctor need to prescribe it? I'm  
20 looking at the Percocet. If the doctor is saying  
21 to the in-house pharmacy, give me two Percocet  
22 tablets now; I want to give them to the patient,  
23 does the doctor actually write out a prescription  
24 as well?

Page 575

1 **A. I don't know what the routine would be at**  
2 **this medical facility. This is not something that**  
3 **is typically done in a private office. When I see**  
4 **notes like this, generally, this is the emergency**  
5 **room or an in-patient in the hospital. If I wrote**  
6 **an order for a patient to receive two Percocet, I**  
7 **would have to write a prescription, give it to the**  
8 **patient. The patient would have to bring it to the**  
9 **pharmacist to get the medication. This appears to**  
10 **be something different from their facility and I**  
11 **don't know what their routine is at the facility.**  
12 Q. So let me ask you about a hypothetical  
13 doctor and a hypothetical patient in the hospital.  
14 If the doctor wanted to get two tablets of Percocet  
15 to that patient, would the doctor need to write a  
16 prescription?  
17 **A. The doctor would need to write an order.**  
18 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Something like that  
19 we're looking at right now?  
20 **A. Correct. So this would be the type of**  
21 **order that I or any other doctor would write in the**  
22 **hospital, assuming that we're still writing orders.**  
23 **Most of the time, we're doing them in electronic**  
24 **medical records, but assuming we're writing an**

Page 576

1 **order, this would be the type of order you would**  
2 **write. It would also be important for the order**  
3 **itself, the reason for the order, to be documented**  
4 **in the medical record in the progress note.**  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Let me ask you about  
6 the progress note, Medical Record 1694, 372,  
7 Bates 372. There's the note about MP, IVIg and MP.  
8 **A. I believe MP refers to Solumedrol, methyl**  
9 **prednisolone.**  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you.  
11 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) If we could go briefly,  
12 Doctor, to Medical Record 1700 at Bates 374?  
13 **A. I do have that record.**  
14 Q. Okay. And that just shows an MRI, a brain  
15 MRI, that Dr. Padmanabhan is ordering on that day?  
16 **A. Correct.**  
17 Q. Now, if we could go to Medical Record 2098,  
18 an August 17th -- an August 2010 order form?  
19 **A. 2098?**  
20 Q. Yes, at Bates 476.  
21 **A. I have that record.**  
22 Q. And this is an order form on August 17th.  
23 The patient is getting Solumedrol, Protonix, and on  
24 August 23rd, 2010, she's getting Imitrex and

Page 577

1 Percocet?  
2 **A. Correct.**  
3 Q. Now, August 23rd, 2010, Imitrex order, what  
4 is Imitrex typically prescribed for?  
5 **A. Migraine headaches. To my knowledge, it is**  
6 **not used for anything except for migraine**  
7 **headaches.**  
8 Q. And Doctor, if you could keep that note in  
9 front of you, that order, and go to Medical  
10 Record 1759 at Bates 378?  
11 **A. I have reviewed the record and this is**  
12 **below the standard of care.**  
13 Q. Why?  
14 **A. There is an indication that the patient is**  
15 **coming in for a discussion of the current regime of**  
16 **staggering IVIg and Solumedrol every two weeks.**  
17 **That's the first indication that I've seen in the**  
18 **records of this pattern of prescription. It's an**  
19 **unusual pattern of chronic prescription, one that**  
20 **would need to have some explanation. There's no**  
21 **indication of what the explanation is for this**  
22 **treatment in regards to a specific diagnosis. It**  
23 **states that the treatment is helping her. It says**  
24 **the pain and fatigue, getting things done is**

Page 578

1 better, that she strongly feels the regime is  
2 helping her. Symptoms are down 75 percent. IVIg  
3 is helping joint stiffness and pain; Solumedrol,  
4 fatigue and shooting pain. She still has some  
5 issues with muscle spasm, but is better than  
6 before. This is an incomplete history,  
7 particularly with this type of treatment regime.  
8 This is a very unusual regimen of medications.  
9 These are both medicines that have significant side  
10 effects. Solumedrol also has many serious side  
11 effects, particularly when given with regular IV  
12 infusions. The examination is listed as unchanged.  
13 This is below the standard of care for a  
14 neurologist, especially with a patient with  
15 multiple neurologic problems, as previously  
16 described.  
17 The impression is CNS and systemic  
18 inflammation. Again, these are vague diagnoses,  
19 neither of which relates to a specific neurological  
20 or general diagnosis. Especially with the  
21 treatment this patient is receiving, this is under  
22 the standard of care. There is no other  
23 information in terms of the impressions. The plan  
24 is will continue regime and reevaluate

Page 579

1 periodically. There is no -- also will get Botox  
2 periodically for paroxysmal dystonia. There is no  
3 mention of paroxysmal dystonia in the history.  
4 There is no mention of the examination showing  
5 dystonia. The specifics of the regime are not  
6 listed. We don't know any other medicines that  
7 she's getting. We know that she had received other  
8 medicines before, including opioids. There is no  
9 indication of that. The patient was given Imitrex  
10 subcutaneously, Percocet at the time -- at the time  
11 I believe of her infusion. There is no mention of  
12 that, no mention of why she received it.  
13 Q. Paroxysmal dystonia, what is that and is it  
14 different from cervical?  
15 A. Paroxysmal dystonia would be another term  
16 for cervical dystonia.  
17 Q. Is there a mention of migraines in this  
18 note?  
19 A. No.  
20 Q. And previously, we had seen some issues  
21 regarding joint pain. Anything about that here?  
22 A. Only the mention of pain.  
23 Q. And in the -- I believe the subjective says  
24 her symptoms are down by 75 percent. Is it clear

Page 580

1 what symptoms, or 75 percent of what or when?  
2 A. No.  
3 Q. Would it be important to know that?  
4 A. Yes.  
5 Q. And why?  
6 A. To know specifically how the medicine is  
7 affecting the symptoms, which symptoms are improved  
8 75 percent would be an important thing to know.  
9 There is a statement about symptoms being improved  
10 by IVIg, by Solumedrol, but it's vague and it's  
11 really difficult to figure out what's going on with  
12 the patient.  
13 Q. If we could go to Medical Record 18-- 1843  
14 --  
15 THE MAGISTRATE: Mr. Paikos, if I could  
16 interject?  
17 MR. PAIKOS: Yes.  
18 THE MAGISTRATE: I'd like to Dr. Levin  
19 some questions, after which I'm going to propose a  
20 break.  
21 MR. PAIKOS: Yes.  
22 THE MAGISTRATE: So still on Medical  
23 Record 759, Bates 378, can you comment on the lack  
24 of an explanation about why the IVIg and the

Page 581

1 Solumedrol treatments are being staggered?  
2 A. No.  
3 THE MAGISTRATE: Should they be  
4 explained?  
5 A. Yes.  
6 THE MAGISTRATE: The staggering should  
7 be explained, besides other details about the  
8 treatments?  
9 A. Yes.  
10 THE MAGISTRATE: I want to ask you  
11 about the last sentence in that paragraph. She  
12 still has some issues with muscle spasm, but better  
13 than before. How does -- does that comply with the  
14 standard of care or not?  
15 A. No.  
16 THE MAGISTRATE: Why not?  
17 A. We don't know where the muscle spasm is.  
18 THE MAGISTRATE: How about some issues?  
19 Is that a concern? Is that vague or is that  
20 sufficient information?  
21 A. Could you repeat the question, please?  
22 THE MAGISTRATE: I'm looking at the  
23 phrase some issues.  
24 A. Oh.

Page 582

1     **THE MAGISTRATE:** Is that sufficient or  
2     is that too vague?  
3     **A. That's too vague.**  
4     **THE MAGISTRATE:** And better than  
5     before, is that sufficient information or is that  
6     too vague?  
7     **A. Better than before would be reasonable.**  
8     **THE MAGISTRATE:** Let me ask you about  
9     Medical Record 2098, same date, Bates 476. It  
10    seems like this patient is coming in and the doctor  
11    is ordering Percocet on a per-visit basis. What do  
12    you make of that?  
13    **A. It is an unusual practice to prescribe**  
14    **Percocet at the time of an infusion. I don't know**  
15    **if it's because the infusion itself is causing pain**  
16    **and he's treating the pain. The nurse's note that**  
17    **we have on page 1759 indicates that the patient was**  
18    **having significant pain at the time she came in for**  
19    **her visit and her infusion. It is unclear to me if**  
20    **he prescribed that for the pain that she had been**  
21    **experiencing when she came in or if the treatment**  
22    **itself caused the pain.**  
23    **THE MAGISTRATE:** So let's say that  
24    patient was experiencing pain in general. Should

Page 583

1     the doctor have been prescribing Percocet so that  
2     she could manage her pain when she wasn't in the  
3     office?  
4     **A. The indication for the prescription of**  
5     **Percocet is something that it would be important to**  
6     **document in terms of the history to know what type**  
7     **of pain the patient is describing, along with the**  
8     **usual characteristics that you would obtain in the**  
9     **history of the patient's pain. Along with that, it**  
10    **would be important to have an examination to**  
11    **corroborate the pain to see what neurological**  
12    **abnormalities are observed and then to formulate an**  
13    **impression as to what the cause of the pain is, and**  
14    **then after you formulate the impression, to**  
15    **formulate a plan as to the proper treatment,**  
16    **possibly including Percocet.**  
17    **THE MAGISTRATE:** So if the patient had  
18    pain between visits unrelated to the injections,  
19    the standard of care would call for her to be  
20    evaluated and to see whether the Percocet would be  
21    appropriate as prescribed?  
22    **A. Correct.**  
23    **THE MAGISTRATE:** And if she was  
24    experiencing pain between visits to be treated when

Page 584

1     she came in, however many weeks apart, would be  
2     below the standard of care?  
3     **A. It would be an unusual way to prescribe**  
4     **Percocet.**  
5     **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. Anything else  
6     about these?  
7     **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
8     **THE MAGISTRATE:** With that, I'm going  
9     to propose a ten-minute break.  
10    (Off the record.)  
11    (Recess taken from 11:30 to 11:40.)  
12    **Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS)** If you could go to  
13    Bates 382? Doctor, if you could review that note?  
14    **A. Excuse me. What page is that?**  
15    **Q. 1843, Bates 382.** And if you could review  
16    the note and state whether or not it is within the  
17    standard of care? And it goes, actually, from  
18    Medical Record 1843 to 1844, Bates 382-383.  
19    **A. I have reviewed the report of October 6th,**  
20    **2010. This was below the standard of care.**  
21    **Q. And why?**  
22    **A. There is a discussion from the patient.**  
23    **She came in to discuss what to do long-term to stop**  
24    **the inflammation in her body, how to get her life**

Page 585

1     **back. He notes that she drags in.**  
2     **THE WITNESS:** May I quote this  
3     information?  
4     **THE MAGISTRATE:** You may quote it and  
5     move very quickly to commenting on it.  
6     **THE WITNESS:** Sure.  
7     **A. A discussion that her brain is no longer**  
8     **sharp. She was an A student. Has a spacey look.**  
9     **People are questioning whether she's on drugs,**  
10    **illegal drugs, because of her spacey look. And he**  
11    **notes that he has also seen this change. Doesn't**  
12    **appear as sharp or as quick as before. There is no**  
13    **other history. This is a patient with multiple**  
14    **problems, multiple neurologic problems. He's**  
15    **describing her as having inflammation in her body,**  
16    **but there is no discussion as to the symptoms**  
17    **related to the inflammation in her body as he**  
18    **describes. There is no comment on other diagnoses**  
19    **that she's been given in the past. The cervical**  
20    **dystonia, different types of pains, many different**  
21    **neurologic symptoms, there's no comment on the**  
22    **specific medications that she is receiving, no**  
23    **comment on the response to IVig or Solumedrol or**  
24    **indeed naming those or other medications in the**

Page 586

1 history that she's getting. No mention about  
2 opioids; no mention of Imitrex, either orally or  
3 subcutaneously. This would be below the standard  
4 of care.  
5 The examination, it's noted that her  
6 mental status remains normal per the usual office  
7 tests. She has a late left pronator drift with  
8 bilateral palm cupping. There is no other  
9 neurological examination listed. This is below the  
10 standard of care for a neurologist for the reasons  
11 previously described.  
12 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) I'm sorry. Were you done  
13 with your answer?  
14 A. The assessment is CNS inflammation. This  
15 is a non-specific vague diagnosis, as previously  
16 described, and would not merit the medications that  
17 the patient is receiving, would not merit  
18 medications with such potential side effects as  
19 regular doses of IVIg and Solumedrol. He notes  
20 that he remains convinced that her brain is being  
21 suppressed by inflammation, describes that he is  
22 giving the Solumedrol and IVIg in a staggered  
23 fashion, every two weeks, alternating. This is a  
24 very high dose of both medications. It is below

Page 587

1 the standard of care for the given diagnosis. And  
2 he further in discussion with the patient made a  
3 decision to give her cyclophosphamide for a  
4 one-week oral treatment. This is below the  
5 standard of care. The cyclophosphamide is a  
6 medication with many potential serious side  
7 effects. This is an anti-cancer drug that is  
8 typically not prescribed for neurological  
9 disorders. It is sometimes prescribed for multiple  
10 sclerosis. It is not prescribed as a first line  
11 drug. It would be typically a second line drug or  
12 further line. Potential for many serious side  
13 effects, serious infections, serious bladder  
14 problems, cancers occurring in the long term with  
15 the treatment, and he's adding this on top of  
16 Solumedrol and IVIg. There would be no indication  
17 for adding a third toxic medication given the  
18 diagnosis of CNS inflammation. He also gave her  
19 trigger point injections on the same visit on the  
20 left side of her neck, along the shoulder and four  
21 tough spots, and the patient had relief quickly  
22 after the injections. It is below the standard of  
23 care not to give us specific information as to why  
24 the injections were given, where were they given

Page 588

1 specifically, how much medication was in each  
2 injection, did she have any side effects from the  
3 injection. He also wrote a prescription for  
4 Zofran. There is no indication why Zofran was  
5 prescribed. Zofran is an anti-nausea medication.  
6 There is no indication that the patient has nausea,  
7 I don't know if that's for nausea that she has now  
8 or if it's for medications that he's prescribing,  
9 that she could be having side effects.  
10 Q. And Doctor, it does show he sent her for a  
11 3T scan and waiting for the CD's from Mass.  
12 General?  
13 A. Yes.  
14 THE MAGISTRATE: Is that the lab tests  
15 in the last line, also wrote for lab tests?  
16 A. I don't know what the lab tests are. It  
17 just says lab tests. I don't know what those are.  
18 There's no indication. The standard of care, if  
19 you order lab tests, would be to specify which lab  
20 tests you are ordering.  
21 THE MAGISTRATE: And her mental status  
22 remains normal per the usual office tests. Do you  
23 know what the usual office tests are?  
24 A. It's not a term that would commonly be

Page 589

1 used. I don't know what the term usual office  
2 tests means. I know what the usual neurologic  
3 mental status testing is in the office, so I know  
4 what a neurologist would do in the usual course of  
5 events as a mental status test in his or her  
6 office. I'm not familiar with the term usual  
7 office tests.  
8 Q. Could the she drags in, as noted early on  
9 in the note, could that be the result of some of  
10 the medications she's taking?  
11 A. Yes.  
12 Q. And there's no discussion of any impact, if  
13 any, of any narcotic she's on on that October 5th,  
14 2010, note. Could you go to Medical Record 1814,  
15 Bates 380?  
16 A. 1814?  
17 Q. 1814, Bates 380.  
18 A. I have that ready.  
19 Q. And does that appear that there were  
20 medications ordered on that date, Oxycodone and  
21 Adderall?  
22 A. Yes.  
23 Q. And who is shown as the provider or the  
24 orderer?

Page 590

1 **A. Excuse me. I'm a little confused as to the**  
2 **dates. I see an encounter date of 9/27 for the**  
3 **medications that were ordered. The encounter date**  
4 **for the progress note appears to be October 5th.**  
5 Q. And my question is is there any indication  
6 of, in the progress note that followed this, these  
7 orders, of how she's doing on these medications.  
8 **A. There's no indication of any information at**  
9 **all about the medication, no indication that they**  
10 **were prescribed, if they were helping her, harming**  
11 **her, if there were any side effects. There was no**  
12 **mention of the medications.**  
13 Q. If we go to Medical Record 1848, Bates 384  
14 to 385, does this discuss a car accident?  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Are you leaving --  
16 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** -- 1814, Mr. Paikos?  
18 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes.  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. If I could ask  
20 Dr. Levin a question about that before you move on?  
21 Dr. Levin, Medical Record 1814, Bates 380, a side  
22 effect of Oxycodone can be tiredness, lack of  
23 attention. Is that right?  
24 **A. Yes.**

Page 591

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And Adderall is to  
2 increase focus and attention?  
3 **A. Yes.**  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** What's -- what's the  
5 possibility of going on by prescribing both of  
6 these? Is there a possible connection?  
7 **A. I don't know. There was no -- there is no**  
8 **record, there's no information given in the record**  
9 **as to why either medication is being prescribed or**  
10 **indeed that either medicine is being prescribed.**  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Have you seen Adderall  
12 prescribed to counter the effects of Oxycodone?  
13 **A. No.**  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you.  
15 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) Actually, if we go to  
16 Medical Record 1921, Bates 389?  
17 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** What's the Bates?  
18 **MR. PAIKOS:** It's Bates 389.  
19 **A. I do have page 1921.**  
20 Q. (BY MR. PAIKOS) And it has a date of  
21 November 3rd, 2010?  
22 **A. Yes, sir.**  
23 Q. And what does it show for medications  
24 ordered on that day?

Page 592

1 **A. Oxycodone, five milligrams, one pill four**  
2 **times a day as needed, 60 pills total with no**  
3 **refills.**  
4 Q. If we go to page Medical Record 1931, Bates  
5 390, also November 3rd, 2010 --  
6 **A. I have that page.**  
7 Q. And does it appear that Cymbalta is being  
8 ordered by Dr. Padmanabhan?  
9 **A. Yes.**  
10 Q. What is Cymbalta?  
11 **A. Cymbalta I believe falls into the category**  
12 **of antidepressants. It's used for a variety of**  
13 **conditions, including depression. It can be used**  
14 **for pain problems on occasion.**  
15 Q. Any indication that you've seen up to that  
16 -- this point for the -- for Cymbalta in the  
17 record?  
18 **A. There's no indication that this medicine**  
19 **was considered or prescribed.**  
20 Q. And if we could go to Medical Record 1958  
21 to 59, which is at Bates 392 and 393, if you can  
22 review those pages?  
23 **A. Sorry. 1958?**  
24 Q. 1958 and 1959.

Page 593

1 **A. I have reviewed these notes and the note of**  
2 **1959 is below the standard of care.**  
3 Q. And why?  
4 **A. The doctor notes that the patient was there**  
5 **with whole body and joint pain and fatigue that**  
6 **responds to Solumedrol and IVIg. Does not state**  
7 **what dosage she's getting, what the treatment**  
8 **regime is for the IVIg. Does not state any of her**  
9 **other medical problems. Does not state any of her**  
10 **other medications that she's receiving. He notes**  
11 **that she is there to go over her MRI, that he did**  
12 **review the MRI with her frame by frame, and yet the**  
13 **brain MRI is entirely normal. There is no**  
14 **neurological examination. The assessment is**  
15 **fibromyalgia versus undifferentiated connective**  
16 **tissue disease, and the statement noted I am unable**  
17 **to find a CNS lesion to account for any**  
18 **inflammation etiology. He further notes that he is**  
19 **returning patient to the care of her PCP -- I**  
20 **believe Dr. Stout is her PCP -- for pain management**  
21 **and to Rheumatology for tissue disease and that he**  
22 **will continue to follow with the migraine and**  
23 **dystonia. It's unclear to me how he came to the**  
24 **impression that he did. He is now making a radical**

Page 594

1 change in his assessment of the patient. He  
2 previously had been diagnosing her with CNS  
3 inflammation and systemic inflammation, prescribing  
4 several toxic medications for this in frequent  
5 dosages, and now on the basis of an MRI, he's  
6 stating that she does not have these conditions.  
7 He's diagnosing her with a new diagnosis now,  
8 fibromyalgia versus undifferentiated connective  
9 tissue disease. This is a bit difficult to  
10 understand the reasoning behind this and indeed  
11 there is no reasoning except that I am unable to  
12 find a CNS lesion to account for any inflammation  
13 etiology. She had previously had an MRI. She  
14 previously had an MRI on April 4th, 2008, which was  
15 also a normal MRI. So the fact that she has a  
16 normal MRI is not new information. Her previous  
17 MRI again had been normal, prior to the diagnoses  
18 that had been made. He is sending her back to her  
19 PCP and is referring her to a rheumatologist,  
20 referring her for pain management. There is no  
21 indication of what medications are being  
22 prescribed. There is no indication as to what is  
23 going to be happening with the previous treatment.  
24 She had been on IVIg, Solumedrol. I don't know if

Page 595

1 she continued on cyclophosphamide or not. She was  
2 getting regular doses. So we don't know what's  
3 going to be happening with those treatments. Are  
4 they going to be suddenly stopped? Is another  
5 doctor taking over? We don't know. He had  
6 prescribed a number of different medications.  
7 There's no indication as to what is going to  
8 happen, except that presumably, he would not be  
9 prescribing opioids, that he's giving her pain  
10 management to her PCP, referring her to  
11 Rheumatology to follow up for tissue disease. That  
12 seems a bit an odd referral, given that the  
13 rheumatologist stated the patient had no  
14 rheumatologic disease. He is following her for her  
15 migraine and dystonia. Again, we have very little  
16 information about either of those diagnoses and we  
17 do not know what medications he's going to  
18 prescribe.  
19 Q. So over the course of the treatment we've  
20 seen in these records, do you know approximately  
21 how many different diagnoses?  
22 A. I did go through the records to try to  
23 summarize and to put pieces together and I wrote  
24 down every diagnosis that I could find as I went

Page 596

1 through it. I'm sure I'm missing some, but I found  
2 at least ten different diagnoses.  
3 Q. And how many different medications?  
4 A. Once again, I copied down all the ones that  
5 I could find going back and forth, and I'm certain  
6 that I've missed a couple. Eighteen medicines.  
7 Q. And for any of those diagnoses, no  
8 information on why the diagnosis was being made?  
9 A. Limited information, very limited  
10 information. We have two complete neurological  
11 examinations. Let me get you the dates on those.  
12 December 8th, 2009, and February 10th, 2010, there  
13 were complete neurological evaluations. On both of  
14 those dates, the neurological examination was  
15 normal. The remainder of the progress notes give  
16 minimal or no clinical information in regards to  
17 the patient's examination. The majority of the  
18 records do not list the prescriptions, why they're  
19 being given, how they're being given, the amounts  
20 that they're given, so -- of the medications that I  
21 noted, including several quite toxic medications.  
22 There is minimal information.  
23 MR. PAIKOS: I have no further  
24 questions.

Page 597

1 THE MAGISTRATE: Dr. Padmanabhan, I  
2 assume you have questions for Dr. Levin.  
3 DR. PADMANABHAN: I have many questions  
4 for Dr. Levin, but perhaps we could break for lunch  
5 first.  
6 THE MAGISTRATE: Any objection?  
7 MR. PAIKOS: I have no objection.  
8 DR. PADMANABHAN: I also need a ruling  
9 from you about my exhibits.  
10 THE MAGISTRATE: Do you plan on using  
11 them for cross-examination?  
12 DR. PADMANABHAN: Yes.  
13 THE MAGISTRATE: Let's turn to the  
14 exhibits now.  
15 MR. PAIKOS: Your Honor, if there's a  
16 break, should we have Dr. Levin step out, stay  
17 here, or does it matter?  
18 THE MAGISTRATE: It's up to him. Right  
19 now, it doesn't matter. Right now, we're doing  
20 something procedural, so if you want to release him  
21 or let him --  
22 MR. PAIKOS: Whatever his preference.  
23 THE WITNESS: Whatever you would like  
24 me to do.

Page 598

1     **MR. PAIKOS:** If you stay here, that  
2     would be fine.  
3     **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so I'm looking  
4     at Respondent's Proposed Exhibits.  
5     Dr. Padmanabhan, you've handed me a notebook with  
6     Exhibits 1 through 20, but Respondent's Exhibits 1  
7     through 11 are already in evidence, so to avoid  
8     duplication, to avoid the actual bulk of documents  
9     and to avoid any possible confusion, I'm going to  
10    hand these back to you.  
11    Proposed Respondent's Exhibit 12,  
12    Mr. Paikos, do you have any objection to that?  
13    **MR. PAIKOS:** The prior -- the initial  
14    letter and -- with attachments?  
15    **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm looking at just a  
16    letter of December 22 to Nancy Lian, director of  
17    medical staff services, from you, and I'm looking  
18    at a letter dated November 9th, 2011, also to  
19    Ms. Lian, also from you. Do you have any objection  
20    to those?  
21    **MR. PAIKOS:** I -- I currently don't. I  
22    might argue about the weight, but --  
23    **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so those are  
24    admitted.

Page 599

1     (Respondent's Exhibit 12 admitted into  
2     evidence.)  
3     **THE MAGISTRATE:** Respondent's Proposed  
4     Exhibit 13 is a letter dated January 29th, 2013,  
5     from Dr. Padmanabhan to the Board of Registration  
6     in Medicine, the complaints committee. Do you have  
7     any objection to that?  
8     **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
9     **THE MAGISTRATE:** And there are  
10    attachments also in that exhibit. There's a cover  
11    letter, cover report from the -- from Greeley, the  
12    table of contents from Greeley and a February 20th,  
13    2013, letter to Dr. Padmanabhan from the Board of  
14    Registration in Medicine. That's all part of the  
15    same exhibit, so that's admitted.  
16    (Respondent's Exhibit 13 admitted into  
17    evidence.)  
18    Respondent's Exhibit 14 is a cover  
19    letter dated July 11, 2014, from the Board of  
20    Registration in Medicine to Dr. Padmanabhan and a  
21    two-page attachment. Any objection to that,  
22    Mr. Paikos?  
23    **MR. PAIKOS:** I have -- just want to  
24    make sure I'm in the right -- if I could just ask

Page 600

1     what the attachments were?  
2     **THE MAGISTRATE:** It's one page with the  
3     respondent's name and the investigator's name, your  
4     name, complaint committee. It says -- it's marked  
5     page seven of nine. And the next page, sir, it's  
6     marked page three of three. I don't have an actual  
7     transcript. The respondent's list of exhibits  
8     calls it the transcript of complaints committee  
9     meetings, but that's not what I have in front of  
10    me.  
11    **MR. PAIKOS:** I think those are meeting  
12    minutes of the complaint committee. I currently  
13    have no objection. I may argue the weight --  
14    **THE MAGISTRATE:** Certainly.  
15    **MR. PAIKOS:** -- and the relevance at  
16    the time they come in.  
17    **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so  
18    Dr. Padmanabhan, your exhibit list calls them  
19    transcripts, but these are actually minutes. Is  
20    that correct? I'm not looking at a transcript.  
21    **DR. PADMANABHAN:** That's fine.  
22    **THE MAGISTRATE:** So we're talking about  
23    one letter and those two --  
24    **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes.

Page 601

1     **THE MAGISTRATE:** -- short excerpts?  
2     (Respondent's Exhibit 14 admitted into  
3     evidence.)  
4     **THE MAGISTRATE:** Respondent's  
5     Exhibit 15 is a termination letter from the  
6     Cambridge Health Alliance. Mr. Paikos, any  
7     objection?  
8     **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
9     **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. That's  
10    admitted.  
11    (Respondent's Exhibit 15 admitted into  
12    evidence.)  
13    **THE MAGISTRATE:** Exhibit 16 is on  
14    letterhead of Sloan & Walsh. It's to Eve Slattery,  
15    a lawyer at Dwyer & Collora, signed by Brian  
16    Sullivan dated September 9th, 2010. Any objection  
17    to that?  
18    **MR. PAIKOS:** I'm not sure I have it or  
19    am able to locate it. Thank you.  
20    **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Tab 16.  
21    **MR. PAIKOS:** I don't see the relevance  
22    relative to the background of what -- you know, the  
23    statement of allegations and what happened after  
24    Dr. Padmanabhan's initial summary suspension, and

Page 602

1 this deals with requests by Cambridge Health for  
2 him not to in part go to their facilities.  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Do I hear a specific  
4 objection?  
5 **MR. PAIKOS:** I think relevance.  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. I'm going to  
7 admit it.  
8 (Respondent's Exhibit 16 admitted into  
9 evidence.)  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Exhibit 17, the  
11 respondent's CV, I assume you have no objection?  
12 **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** That's admitted.  
14 (Respondent's Exhibit 17 admitted into  
15 evidence.)  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Exhibit 18, it's  
17 listed in the respondent's list of exhibits as  
18 example of respondent's MRI expertise and standard  
19 of care. Mr. Paikos, any objection?  
20 **MR. PAIKOS:** No. Is this Exhibit 18?  
21 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes.  
22 **MR. PAIKOS:** No objection.  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Does this have to do  
24 with a patient, Dr. Padmanabhan, who is in the

Page 603

1 statement of allegations?  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, but it's about my  
3 ability to read MRI, which is in the statement of  
4 allegations.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I will admit it and I  
6 will allow you to demonstrate its relevance and  
7 argue how much weight I should give it.  
8 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Great. It's also  
9 about how I wrote the notes.  
10 (Respondent's Exhibit 18 admitted into  
11 evidence.)  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Respondent's  
13 Exhibit 19, Dr. Padmanabhan, does this have to do  
14 with patients who are listed in the statement of  
15 allegations?  
16 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** This is about the  
17 previous exhibit. They're related.  
18 **THE MAGISTRATE:** It relates to  
19 Patient I, or relates to your previous exhibit?  
20 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes, the one in 18.  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Just your expertise  
22 and ability to read MRI?  
23 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Correct.  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, any

Page 604

1 objection to that?  
2 **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so I will admit  
4 it and I will allow you to argue that it's relevant  
5 when I accord it weight. Doctor, what's the  
6 relevance of Exhibit 19?  
7 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, Exhibit 19 was  
8 the one that we just talked about.  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm sorry. And you've  
10 explained that it's connected to --  
11 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Eighteen and 19 go  
12 together.  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Respondent's 19.  
14 (Respondent's Exhibit 19 admitted into  
15 evidence.)  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And Dr. Padmanabhan,  
17 why is your proposed Exhibit 20 relevant?  
18 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** He will be testifying  
19 about that, Patient J.  
20 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. And Patient J  
21 is not in the statement of allegations?  
22 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, but he's one of  
23 my witnesses and it goes to my ability to diagnose  
24 multiple sclerosis and manage complex cases.

Page 605

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos?  
2 **MR. PAIKOS:** I have no objection  
3 currently. I may reraise relevance at the time or  
4 argue relevance or the weight.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Yeah, Doctor, I may  
6 revisit relevance, too. I'm not convinced of the  
7 relevance of Patient J testifying. I'm not  
8 convinced of the relevance of a patient who is not  
9 in the statement of allegations testifying.  
10 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** He was brought in to  
11 rebut Dr. Nardin's testimony yesterday.  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And as indicated  
13 yesterday, Dr. Nardin's testimony is of limited  
14 relevance. Dr. Nardin does not appear in the  
15 statement of allegations. Cambridge Health  
16 Alliance does not appear in the statement of  
17 allegations. If you prove that you gave superior  
18 care to Patient J and you prove it beyond a  
19 reasonable doubt, you still may lose this appeal.  
20 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I understand.  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And I'm not going to  
22 -- I will allow you some leeway into exploring your  
23 care of Patient J. I am not committing myself to  
24 allow you to explore it as much as you want,

Page 606

1 because I doubt the relevance.  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Thank you.  
3 (Respondent's Exhibit 20 admitted into  
4 evidence.)  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** With that, the --  
6 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** There's two more.  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you. I'm going  
8 to strike the editorializing from the list of  
9 exhibits. This is -- you're proposing to introduce  
10 e-mail string between you and a Thomas Glick in  
11 2008. First of all, what's the relevance of this?  
12 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It's about the  
13 ongoing troubles I had with Stephan Auerbach, and  
14 both of those people have been introduced in  
15 Dr. Levin's testimony yesterday in terms of their  
16 reading of the MRI's and how my diagnosis of MS is  
17 incorrect because Dr. Auerbach did not find any  
18 Dawson's fingers, so that's highly relevant to the  
19 testimony.  
20 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And who is Thomas  
21 Glick?  
22 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Dr. Glick was my  
23 chief of neurology before Dr. Nardin came in, and  
24 he's on the witness list.

Page 607

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos? You know  
2 what? I still don't have a witness list.  
3 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, no. He's on the  
4 board's witness list. Your Honor, I faxed you a  
5 witness list and you shouted at me because it had  
6 the patient's names and you gave it back to me.  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Yes, of course I gave  
8 it back to you, because you violated the  
9 impoundment order.  
10 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I re-faxed it back to  
11 you. I have it here.  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. I'm looking at  
13 the petitioner's witness list. I see Thomas Glick  
14 only as a potential re-- a potential witness, but  
15 Doctor, I'm still allowed to ask you the relevance,  
16 who he is and what the relevance is to your case.  
17 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It's about diagnosing  
18 MRI and looking at the credibility of  
19 Dr. Auerbach's MRI reports. Yesterday, we had a  
20 very lengthy discussion on credibility of MRI  
21 reports and compared with Dr. Auerbach. It's in  
22 the testimony from yesterday.  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Mr. Paikos, any  
24 comment on Respondent's Proposed Exhibit 21?

Page 608

1 **MR. PAIKOS:** I think from our  
2 perspective, it's not relative. I understand a bit  
3 of Dr. Padmanabhan's theory of his case. I don't  
4 think it's relevant to the statement of  
5 allegations. I don't think it necessarily will  
6 come to the con-- you know, I would reserve, you  
7 know, to argue that it's relative to its weight. I  
8 think there is, you know, e-mail discussions  
9 between Dr. Glick and Dr. Padmanabhan regarding  
10 certain issues, but you know, I think it matters as  
11 to what the weight of it is and what the context of  
12 it is to some degree, so I reserve to argue the  
13 weight of it. I think I don't currently have an  
14 objection as to it. I'm not sure as to its  
15 relevance.  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So I'm going to admit  
17 Respondent's Exhibit 21. Dr. Padmanabhan, I will  
18 tell you that I prefer live testimony, testimony  
19 that can be subject to cross-examination and that I  
20 can ask questions of. Hearsay is allowed in these  
21 proceedings, so I'm going to admit it, but I may  
22 not give it a whole lot of weight, because I'm not  
23 -- unless Dr. Glick actually testifies. So I see  
24 you're nodding your head. So you understand?

Page 609

1 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes, sir.  
2 (Respondent's Exhibit 21 admitted into  
3 evidence.)  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Respondent's  
5 Exhibit 22. Any objection, Mr. Paikos?  
6 **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so I'll admit  
8 that.  
9 (Respondent's Exhibit 22 admitted into  
10 evidence.)  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. Now,  
12 Dr. Padmanabhan, I'm looking at respondent's list  
13 of witnesses. It's the first time I've seen this,  
14 a list that is in compliance with the impoundment  
15 order and does not have people's actual names. One  
16 of the reasons I asked for a witness list by  
17 January 5th is that so I could evaluate who you're  
18 planning on calling.  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Your Honor, I faxed  
20 it to your office three times. In fact, I have my  
21 journal from the fax machine here. I can show it  
22 to you.  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. If you want to  
24 make a copy for me, you can, but I'm not going to

Page 610

1 parse this piece of paper that you just handed to  
2 me.  
3 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I was just proving  
4 that I actually faxed it to you.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm not going to parse  
6 it while I'm looking here now to decide whether or  
7 not you did fax it. As I've said before, the  
8 question is not whether you faxed it. The question  
9 is whether I received it. So let me proceed.  
10 This is the first time I'm looking at  
11 your list of witnesses, which I wanted on  
12 January 5th. One of the reasons I want a list of  
13 witnesses is so I can evaluate where the hearing is  
14 going and how long it's going to last. I see that  
15 you're calling three patients who are in the  
16 statement of allegations, Patients C, D and I, but  
17 I also see Patient J, K, L, M, N, O, P. First of  
18 all, does the impoundment order cover them,  
19 Mr. Paikos?  
20 **MR. PAIKOS:** No, it does not, the  
21 additional patients.  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If you're planning on  
23 calling patients to demonstrate that you in fact  
24 did give superior care, or care within the

Page 611

1 standard, it's not going to prove the -- disprove  
2 the statement of allegations, and I'm not sure I'm  
3 going to allow it. Can you tell me more about  
4 Patients K through P?  
5 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** They are patients who  
6 were contemporaneous with the patients listed in  
7 the statement of allegations in the list chosen by  
8 Dr. Nardin and they are here to testify about --  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. I'm not  
10 accepting that Dr. Nardin chose the patients in the  
11 statement of allegations, so aside from that, tell  
12 me.  
13 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** The patients will  
14 come and testify about the care they received at  
15 the same time. Dr. Nardin referred to the  
16 community standard of care in her testimony  
17 yesterday, that I did not meet the standard of  
18 care, so I think it's important to examine the  
19 community standard of care and what care the other  
20 patients received at the same time on the same  
21 dates.  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Do you propose them as  
23 expert witnesses?  
24 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** They're here to

Page 612

1 present their experience of my care.  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Are they doctors in  
3 addition to being patients?  
4 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, sir. They are  
5 the recipients of my care.  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So I'm ruling -- I'm  
7 not going to allow their testimony. It's not  
8 relevant to this hearing. It will prolong the  
9 hearing unnecessarily and take too many resources.  
10 If you want to submit to the Board of Registration  
11 in Medicine, in case I recommend discipline, if you  
12 want to submit to the Board of Registration in  
13 Medicine mitigation of any discipline, this  
14 information from the patients that you provided  
15 excellent care to them or standard care, I will  
16 allow that. I will pass it on to the board, but  
17 it's not going to enter into my decision on whether  
18 you provided substandard care to the patients  
19 listed in the statement of allegations as detailed  
20 and alleged in the statement of allegations.  
21 Anything else before we break for  
22 lunch?  
23 **MR. PAIKOS:** May I ask one  
24 clarification relative to the patients listed here

Page 613

1 in Dr. Padmanabhan's witness list? Are you saying  
2 they are able to testify relative to -- potentially  
3 relative to mitigating factors?  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm sorry. I will  
5 clarify that. You can submit that in writing and I  
6 will pass it on to the Board of Registration in  
7 Medicine in the event that I recommend discipline.  
8 I will pass it on to mitigate. You can argue to  
9 the Board of Registration in Medicine that any  
10 discipline should be mitigated, but I'm not going  
11 to allow live testimony of Patients J, K, L, M, N,  
12 O, P to demonstrate that the statement of  
13 allegations are -- are not true. I'm not going to  
14 allow the live testimony. You can submit it to me  
15 in writing, and I'm not going to take that into  
16 consideration in deciding whether the statement of  
17 allegations are true.  
18 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** The other issue is  
19 you said you were going to give us a timetable or a  
20 schedule for where, when I shall present my case.  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** We're going to --  
22 we're going to wait to see until the Board of  
23 Registration in Medicine completes its case. At a  
24 certain point -- I don't want to delay testimony.

Page 614

1 We'll wait until Dr. Levin is done testifying and  
2 then we will go over -- or the board is done with  
3 its witnesses, and then we will review calendars.  
4 **MR. PAIKOS:** Nothing further.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so we'll resume  
6 in an hour.  
7 (Off the record.)  
8 (Lunch recess taken from 12:22 to 1:27.)  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So we're back on the  
10 record. I apologize for being a few minutes late.  
11 I'm running back and forth between my office. All  
12 electronic devices that make noise should be off.  
13 There are no recording devices or cameras allowed  
14 in the hearing room.  
15 Dr. Padmanabhan, are you ready to begin  
16 cross-examination?  
17 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes.  
18 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Please proceed.  
19 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**  
20 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Good afternoon.  
21 **A. Good afternoon.**  
22 Q. Dr. Levin, when were you retained by the  
23 government to testify at this disciplinary hearing?  
24 **A. Approximately October of 2014.**

Page 615

1 Q. When did you receive all the charts to  
2 review?  
3 **A. Sometime between October and November of**  
4 **2014.**  
5 Q. In looking through your CV, I see that you  
6 haven't done any fellowships, no subspecialty  
7 training.  
8 **A. That's correct.**  
9 (Comments off the record.)  
10 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Have you published  
11 any articles in peer-reviewed scientific journals?  
12 **A. No.**  
13 Q. According to the CV, you were chairman of  
14 the Rhode Island branch of the National MS Society?  
15 **A. Correct.**  
16 Q. You have listed that under medical boards.  
17 Does that count as a medical board?  
18 **A. Actually, I -- I have to look at my CV to**  
19 **see how it is listed. I was actually on the board**  
20 **as well.**  
21 Q. It's Tab 12.  
22 **A. I was on the board as well of the**  
23 **Rhode Island MS Society.**  
24 Q. But is it a board, the MS Society?

Page 616

1 **A. A medical board?**  
2 Q. Yes. It's listed under medical boards.  
3 **A. It's a board of directors of the MS Society**  
4 **of the State of Rhode Island. Again, I was also**  
5 **similarly on the --**  
6 Q. I understand that, but the heading is  
7 membership in medical boards. Medical boards  
8 usually has a specific --  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Well, if you can pose  
10 it as a question?  
11 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Did you ever serve on  
12 medical boards?  
13 **A. I am not sure I understand your question.**  
14 Q. Dr. Levin, why did the National MS Society  
15 select you to serve within the Rhode Island  
16 chapter? Do you have a large MS patient population  
17 that you follow?  
18 **A. I think officially, I was chosen because of**  
19 **a colleague who was working on the board thought I**  
20 **would be a good fit to be on the board, asked me if**  
21 **I would join it, and I did.**  
22 Q. How many MS patients do you care for?  
23 **A. At the present time, or previously?**  
24 Q. Right now.

Page 617

1 **A. I don't know. Approximately ten to 15.**  
2 Q. How many of your patients have a diagnosis  
3 of fibromyalgia?  
4 **A. As the primary diagnosis?**  
5 Q. Carry a diagnosis of fibromyalgia --  
6 **A. I don't know.**  
7 Q. -- that you know this person has  
8 fibromyalgia.  
9 **A. I don't know.**  
10 Q. How many of your patients have -- carry a  
11 diagnosis of chronic fatigue syndrome?  
12 **A. I don't know.**  
13 Q. How many patients with chronic pain do you  
14 provide care for, manage their pain?  
15 **A. I do not manage chronic pain per se. Many**  
16 **of my patients have chronic pain, but if the main**  
17 **diagnosis that they have is chronic pain unrelated**  
18 **to other neurologic issues, then I would not treat**  
19 **them, not by myself.**  
20 Q. How many of your ten to 15 MS patients also  
21 suffer from chronic pain?  
22 **A. None.**  
23 Q. In how many of your patients over the years  
24 did you think OxyContin was appropriate?

Page 618

1 **A. Very few.**  
2 Q. How many patients do you write OxyContin  
3 prescriptions for every month?  
4 **A. Zero.**  
5 Q. Have you ever written OxyContin  
6 prescriptions for patients?  
7 **A. No.**  
8 Q. According to the board website, your  
9 license was renewed in 2013; is that correct?  
10 **A. Yes.**  
11 Q. Have you completed all CME requirements of  
12 continued licensure in this Commonwealth?  
13 **A. Yes.**  
14 Q. Are you aware of the requirements for  
15 maintaining licensure in Massachusetts?  
16 **A. Yes.**  
17 Q. Are you aware that four hours must be spent  
18 on reviewing and learning about government  
19 regulations?  
20 **A. I'm sorry. I didn't understand your**  
21 **question.**  
22 Q. Are you aware that four hours must be spent  
23 on reviewing and learning about government  
24 regulations; specifically, board regulations?

Page 619

1 **A. Yes.**  
2 Q. Have you met that requirement?  
3 **A. Yes.**  
4 Q. Are you aware of any new government  
5 requirements that came into force in 2012 before  
6 your license was renewed in 2013?  
7 **A. I know there were many different government**  
8 **regulations. I can't --**  
9 Q. Massachusetts state regulations  
10 specifically?  
11 **A. I can't speak to one regulation that stands**  
12 **out.**  
13 Q. Did you complete the required CME courses  
14 to satisfy the opioid prescribing requirement?  
15 **A. Yes.**  
16 Q. You testified under oath this week that you  
17 had never heard of Title 21, Chapter 2,  
18 Section 1306.12?  
19 **A. Yes.**  
20 Q. And you stated that no neurologist would  
21 know what that means. And on the basis of what  
22 knowledge did you give Magistrate Bresler that  
23 statement, that no neurologist would know what CFR  
24 Chapter 2, Section 1306.12 means?

Page 620

1 **A. It was not something that I was familiar**  
2 **with, and I believe that the average neurologist**  
3 **would not recognize that particular series of**  
4 **numbers and letters.**  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan,  
6 before you ask your next question, I'll tell you  
7 that I generally disfavor questions reminding the  
8 witness that he testified under oath, because all  
9 of the testimony is under oath.  
10 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Yesterday, you  
11 mentioned that I had referenced 1306.12, and you  
12 said it again just now, in a patient note, that it  
13 would certainly have confused any neurologist  
14 reading the note, and so it fell below the standard  
15 of care. On the basis of what knowledge did you  
16 give Magistrate Bresler that statement?  
17 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
18 Q. That seeing 1306, or CFR 1306.12 in a note  
19 automatically confuses the average neurologist, how  
20 did you arrive at that conclusion?  
21 **A. I believe I was responding to a question as**  
22 **to whether or not seeing that note would be**  
23 **confusing to the average neurologist, and my answer**  
24 **was to the best of my knowledge, I didn't know**

Page 621

1 **anything about it and I suspect that the average**  
2 **neurologist would not know about those particular**  
3 **numbers and letters as well.**  
4 Q. Are you aware, Dr. Levin, that the CME's of  
5 the state-mandated opioid CME course are  
6 specifically taught about Section 1306.12?  
7 **A. I did not remember that.**  
8 Q. Please turn to Patient D, MR 20-21,  
9 Bates 115.  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm sorry. Bates  
11 number?  
12 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** 115 to 116.  
13 **A. Could you repeat the page number, please?**  
14 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) MR 20 to 21 for  
15 Patient D. Please tell us, what is the encounter  
16 date for this visit?  
17 **A. December 16, 2009.**  
18 Q. Given that the state mandate came into  
19 force in 2012, what conclusion do you draw from my  
20 currently correctly referencing that regulation  
21 back in 2009?  
22 **A. I don't understand the question.**  
23 Q. I shall repeat. Given that the state  
24 mandate, which explicitly teaches all licensed

Page 622

1 physicians in Massachusetts about CFR Section 1306  
2 --  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. That's not in  
4 evidence, so I'm not going to allow you to ask that  
5 question.  
6 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It's a legal  
7 requirement, Your Honor, for licensure.  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** It's not in evidence.  
9 It hasn't been testified to or it's not an exhibit.  
10 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** May I introduce it?  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** You can. Mr. Paikos,  
12 any objection?  
13 **MR. PAIKOS:** I'm not sure -- is he  
14 introducing the regulation or the -- I'm not sure  
15 what he's seeking to introduce. Can I get a copy?  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Well, let's take a  
17 look and then you can see if you have an objection.  
18 **MR. PAIKOS:** If I can ask what Bates  
19 number we're on again?  
20 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It's 115.  
21 **MR. PAIKOS:** 115. Thank you.  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And the encounter  
23 date, Dr. Padmanabhan?  
24 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** The encounter date is

Page 623

1 March 15, '8. 2008.  
2 **A. I'm sorry. I misunderstood your**  
3 **directions. If you could give me not the Bates**  
4 **numbers, but --**  
5 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** Twenty. Patient D,  
6 page 20. So my question is in 2008, I have  
7 referenced CFR 1306.12 in the note. What  
8 conclusion do you draw from that?  
9 **THE WITNESS:** Your Honor, I believe I  
10 have a different record than I'm being directed to.  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so  
12 Dr. Padmanabhan, I understand that Dr. Levin has  
13 records that do not have the Bates number on them.  
14 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It's MR 20, sir.  
15 Patient D, MR 20. So that's Tab 6.  
16 **A. Right, the date for page 20 that I have --**  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm sorry. I don't  
18 have this as Tab 6. And we're talking Patient D as  
19 in David?  
20 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Tab 5.  
21 **A. I'm sorry. I thought you said B as in boy.**  
22 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** Okay. The question  
23 is what conclusion do you draw from the fact that I  
24 referenced CFR 1306.12 back in 2008 itself.

Page 624

1 **A. I have no conclusions.**  
2 **Q. Dr. Levin, why did you not know anything**  
3 **about Title 21, Chapter 2, Section 1306.12?**  
4 **A. I am not familiar with the specific title**  
5 **that you're giving me, sir.**  
6 **Q. It's the Code of Federal Regulations that**  
7 **involves how DEA --**  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. You need to  
9 pose questions, Dr. Padmanabhan.  
10 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** Are you aware of the  
11 Code of Federal Regulations that the DEA uses to  
12 control how prescriptions are written and how  
13 prescriptions must be written?  
14 **A. I am not familiar with a specific**  
15 **regulation. I'm familiar with the use of DEA with**  
16 **the requirement that every physician has to use his**  
17 **DEA number to write prescriptions.**  
18 **Q. After the government sent you the medical**  
19 **records in October or November of 2014 for your**  
20 **review, did you notice this reference in this chart**  
21 **for Section 1306.12?**  
22 **A. Yes.**  
23 **Q. Dr. Levin, you knew you were coming to**  
24 **testify in a hearing that would decide whether or**

Page 625

1 not a doctor will continue to practice medicine, so  
2 did you look up this regulation?  
3 **A. No.**  
4 **Q. May I ask why not?**  
5 **A. I didn't look it up.**  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, in  
7 general, I'm going to ask you to ask one question  
8 at a time.  
9 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It was a follow-on  
10 question after he said no.  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** In general, I'm going  
12 to ask you to ask one question at a time. It  
13 hasn't been a problem yet, but some of the  
14 questions you're asking have two questions in them.  
15 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** I'm now going to turn  
16 to Patient A as in apple, Medical Record Number 43.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And the Bates number?  
18 Doctor, do you have the Bates number?  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No.  
20 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, I'm  
21 sorry. I didn't hear you.  
22 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I may be mistaken  
23 about the 43 part. One second.  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Your exhibits do have

Page 626

1 Bates numbers; is that correct?  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes, they do. It's  
3 143. My apologies.  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Bates 30?  
5 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** One second, sir.  
6 Yes, Bates 30.  
7 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) You had testified  
8 that you did not know why three separate  
9 prescriptions were written to start at the same  
10 date.  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Wait for an answer.  
12 Dr. Levin, do you have an answer for the question?  
13 **A. I'm sorry. I did not hear a question.**  
14 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Right. There is no  
15 question yet. He testified that he did not know  
16 why --  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** You have to pose  
18 questions.  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Right. I was going  
20 to.  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm waiting for an  
22 acknowledgement that Dr. Levin actually testified  
23 to that. That's what I'm -- that's the question  
24 that I'm waiting for an answer from him.

Page 627

1 **A. I believe at one point during the**  
2 **testimony, I did note and testify that there were**  
3 **three prescriptions for OxyContin that had the same**  
4 **start date.**  
5 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Have you ever written  
6 three prescriptions in a row for a patient for a  
7 controlled substance?  
8 **A. No.**  
9 Q. Given that you have never written follow-on  
10 prescriptions per CFR 1306.12, on what basis did  
11 you --  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Well, that's not in  
13 evidence, so you can rephrase the question.  
14 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** He just --  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** CFR is not in  
16 evidence. You can ask a similar question, but  
17 you're going to need to reformat it.  
18 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, given that  
19 you've never written three prescriptions in a row,  
20 that is, an original prescription and two follow-on  
21 prescriptions for a controlled substance, how can  
22 you be qualified to render an opinion on the  
23 practice of writing said scripts, specifically  
24 referring to page 143?

Page 628

1 **A. My opinion was based on my observation of**  
2 **the records and has no basis related to my personal**  
3 **experience in treating patients with controlled**  
4 **substances.**  
5 Q. Subsequent to the hearing having begun, did  
6 you look up how follow-on prescriptions are  
7 written?  
8 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
9 Q. Since this hearing started, did you go back  
10 and look how follow-on prescriptions are written  
11 for controlled substances?  
12 **A. I did not. I did have a discussion with**  
13 **the nurse from the Board of Medicine and we**  
14 **discussed the regulation being that a controlled**  
15 **substance may be written for one month's supply,**  
16 **and at the same time, there can be second**  
17 **prescription written to start a month later and a**  
18 **third prescription to be written to start two**  
19 **months later.**  
20 Q. What is the regulation, as far as you know,  
21 Dr. Levin, about what dates are written on the  
22 prescriptions?  
23 **A. I don't know.**  
24 Q. What is your experience, Dr. Levin, with

Page 629

1 patients suffering from drug addiction, or as it's  
2 also called, substance abuse?  
3 **A. I'm not a pain specialist. I don't treat**  
4 **patients who have substance abuse by myself. I**  
5 **have seen many patients over the years who have had**  
6 **substance abuse in a consultation capacity.**  
7 Q. Dr. Levin, I asked you specifically about  
8 drug addiction or substance abuse, not about pain.  
9 **A. Did I say pain? Excuse me. I misspoke.**  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'll accept the  
11 answer.  
12 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Because you said you  
13 were not a pain specialist.  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, you  
15 have to pose questions. And I am accepting  
16 Dr. Levin's answer to your question.  
17 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Is it your opinion,  
18 Dr. Levin, that pain specialists always see  
19 patients with drug addiction?  
20 **A. No.**  
21 Q. Do all pain patients suffer from drug  
22 addiction?  
23 **A. No.**  
24 Q. Why do medical professionals refer to drug

Page 630

1 addiction sometimes as substance abuse?  
2 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection. Presumes -- no  
3 foundation, no -- he's saying that the medical  
4 professionals.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'll see if Dr. Levin  
6 knows.  
7 **A. I don't know.**  
8 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Which term do you  
9 typically use in your professional capacity,  
10 Dr. Levin, drug addiction or substance abuse?  
11 **A. Substance abuse.**  
12 Q. Why?  
13 **A. I think it generally describes the**  
14 **condition that the patient is suffering from. The**  
15 **majority of people that I see with substance abuse**  
16 **have difficulties with more than one substance, so**  
17 **I would say that most people suffer from**  
18 **polysubstance abuse, alcohol plus other substances.**  
19 Q. Would you call them drug addicts as well?  
20 **A. Would I use the term drug addict in**  
21 **describing my patient?**  
22 Q. Somebody who uses alcohol and other  
23 substances.  
24 **A. I would not call or use the term drug**

Page 631

1 **addict to describe one of my patients, no.**  
2 Q. You stated yesterday that you have never  
3 ever ordered a tox screen, a urine tox screen. I  
4 would like to understand why.  
5 **A. That's incorrect. If I stated it, I was**  
6 **mistaken.**  
7 Q. Do you refer all pain patients to other  
8 physicians, if a patient comes to you in a  
9 neurology clinic and say Doctor, I have severe  
10 chronic pain?  
11 **A. Is the question in reference to pain or**  
12 **chronic pain?**  
13 Q. Pain or chronic pain. Suppose a patient  
14 comes in with severe pain. Would you automatically  
15 refer that patient to pain clinic?  
16 **A. No.**  
17 Q. If a patient comes in with a long history  
18 of chronic pain, would you refer that patient to a  
19 pain clinic?  
20 **A. Very likely.**  
21 Q. Are you aware, Dr. Levin, that the Board of  
22 Registration in Medicine has declared to the  
23 Supreme Judicial Court that neurologists --  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm going to stop you

Page 632

1 right there. That's not a proper question.  
2 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, who are  
3 considered pain specialists?  
4 **A. Doctors who have specialized training and**  
5 **experience in dealing with patients who have**  
6 **chronic pain with -- including knowledge about**  
7 **proper treatment, including medications.**  
8 Q. If you have a patient who shows any sign of  
9 drug abuse, would you terminate your care  
10 immediately? Would you fire the patient?  
11 **A. It's a general question. I would have to**  
12 **know the specifics of the patient.**  
13 Q. Supposing you have --  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Excuse me,  
15 Dr. Padmanabhan. You can continue this line of  
16 question, but what would be helpful for me is this  
17 witness' understanding of the standard of care  
18 rather than his personal practice.  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** This witness has  
20 testified for three days about the standard of  
21 care, so I'm exploring --  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, you  
23 can ask the witness along the line of questions of  
24 what his individual practice is. I am giving you

Page 633

1 an indication of what would be helpful to me.  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** The reason I'm asking  
3 these questions, Your Honor, if I may explain --  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** No. You can proceed  
5 with your format of questions.  
6 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Have you fired any  
7 patient for being non-compliant or taking other  
8 drugs? In other words, if you found someone abuses  
9 cocaine, have you fired that patient?  
10 **A. Not that I can recall.**  
11 Q. Yesterday, we had some testimony about the  
12 mandated 30-day supply. What does mandated 30-day  
13 supply mean?  
14 **A. I can only comment on what the statement as**  
15 **you give it to me would seem to mean, and that**  
16 **would seem to mean that some authority has stated**  
17 **that you have to give a patient a 30-day supply.**  
18 Q. We discussed this specifically in the case  
19 of Patient E, who I fired, and you told  
20 Magistrate Bresler that my decision to give a  
21 30-day supply at the time that I fired the patient  
22 was, quote, bizarre, unquote. Was my giving him a  
23 mandated 30-day supply within the law?  
24 **A. Would you like me to pull the record for**

Page 634

1 **Patient E to review that?**  
2 Q. Yes.  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** While we're locating  
4 Patient E's records, Doctor, I've reconsidered. If  
5 you want to pose a question to Dr. Levin about what  
6 the Supreme Judicial Court has said, I will allow  
7 the question.  
8 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) It states --  
9 Patient E, Number 231, Bates 189 -- that the doctor  
10 does not state where the mandated 30 days came  
11 from.  
12 **A. I believe that the comment was made in**  
13 **regards to the prescriptions that were supplied to**  
14 **this patient. The date of your letter is May 13th,**  
15 **2009. On May 14th, 2009, there was a prescription**  
16 **for methadone, ten milligrams, number 203, so that**  
17 **would be a 30-day supply. On May 22, 2009, there**  
18 **was a prescription for methadone, again,**  
19 **240 tablets, which would imply a two-month supply,**  
20 **a 60-day supply. On May 14th, there was a**  
21 **prescription for Oxycodone, number 360, a 30-day**  
22 **supply. On May 22, there was a second prescription**  
23 **for Oxycodone, 360 tablets, for a second 30-day**  
24 **supply. I believe my response was in regards to**

Page 635

1 **prescribing 60 days as opposed to 30-days supply.**  
2 Q. Dr. Levin, we have photocopies here that  
3 you have testified about the dates. Do you know if  
4 these prescriptions were actually handed physically  
5 to the patient?  
6 **A. I would have no way of knowing that.**  
7 Q. When you looked at the patient records and  
8 you agreed to come and testify at this board  
9 hearing, did you ask them at the board for records,  
10 previous records regarding my performance as a  
11 physician?  
12 **A. I made no requests at all. I accepted the**  
13 **records they requested me to review with no further**  
14 **request.**  
15 Q. Did you look my profile up on the board  
16 website, Dr. Levin?  
17 **A. No.**  
18 Q. Not until today?  
19 **A. Sir?**  
20 Q. Never?  
21 **A. Never.**  
22 Q. Have you testified at board hearings  
23 before?  
24 **A. No.**

Page 636

1 Q. This is your first time ever?  
2 **A. Yes.**  
3 Q. Have you had any training in reading and  
4 interpreting MRI's?  
5 **A. Yes.**  
6 Q. What training have you had, sir?  
7 **A. I've attended, I would have to guess,**  
8 **approximately five to seven courses on interpreting**  
9 **MRI. Prior to interpreting MRI's, I had trained**  
10 **during my residency and in my practice in**  
11 **interpreting other imaging procedures, including**  
12 **CT scans. And I've had experience in regular**  
13 **interpretation of MRI since MRI became widely**  
14 **available in the northeast, my guesstimate,**  
15 **approximately -- approximately 1982. I can be**  
16 **wrong on that date. So I've had experience in**  
17 **regularly interpreting, seeing reports, reviewing**  
18 **my own images for an extensive period of time.**  
19 Q. From 1982?  
20 **A. When it became available widely. I --**  
21 **that's a guess as to the date. I could be wrong.**  
22 **It could be a different date.**  
23 Q. Were you accepted by insurance carriers as  
24 qualified to read and interpret MRI's?

Page 637

1 **A. No.**  
2 Q. Do you give presentations to physicians or  
3 other staff about findings on MRI's at conferences  
4 and other such venue?  
5 **A. I don't give formal talks. On a regular**  
6 **basis, I discuss MRI's with colleagues. I review**  
7 **MRI's on a regular basis with radiologists in**  
8 **regards to patients that I've seen, to patients**  
9 **that I'm seeing in the office and in consultation.**  
10 **Not infrequently, I review MRI's with colleagues,**  
11 **discussing cases, sometimes instructing them,**  
12 **sometimes being instructed by them. I regularly**  
13 **review MRI images with my patients.**  
14 Q. Do you get contacted for second opinions to  
15 double-check a radiologist's findings on an MRI  
16 report?  
17 **A. Not to double-check, no.**  
18 Q. What is the American Society of  
19 Neuroimaging? Are you familiar with that  
20 organization?  
21 **A. I'm familiar with the name.**  
22 Q. Do you know anything about the American  
23 Society For Neuroimaging?  
24 **A. No.**

Page 638

1 Q. So you wouldn't be able to tell the  
2 difference between the American Society of  
3 Neuroimaging and the Academy of Radiology or other  
4 such radiological societies?  
5 **A. I have no additional information.**  
6 Q. Okay. Did you provide the government with  
7 peer-reviewed articles about MRI findings for use  
8 at this hearing?  
9 **A. Would you repeat the question, please?**  
10 Q. Did you provide the government with  
11 peer-reviewed articles about MRI findings?  
12 **A. No.**  
13 Q. Did you reference any guidelines by various  
14 expert panels such as the Consortium of MS or the  
15 NIH?  
16 **A. No.**  
17 Q. May I ask why?  
18 **A. Didn't seem to be an appropriate thing to**  
19 **do.**  
20 Q. Not appropriate? Wouldn't that have been  
21 important to actually come with medical expert  
22 recommendations and guidelines to a hearing where  
23 you're going to testify about MRI findings?  
24 **A. I don't understand your question.**

Page 639

1 Q. Would it not have been useful to come in  
2 with actual peer-reviewed criteria on how to  
3 interpret MRI findings?  
4 **A. It did not seem to be necessary.**  
5 Q. When you order MRI brain scans for  
6 patients, how often do you order sagittal FLAIR  
7 sequence?  
8 **A. I don't order specific sagittal FLAIR**  
9 **sequences, because the laboratories that I deal**  
10 **with, particularly the laboratory in my hospital**  
11 **that I work at, does this as a routine.**  
12 Q. So all the patients get sagittal FLAIR's?  
13 **A. Most of them. If there's any question, I**  
14 **would be concerned about getting sagittal FLAIR in**  
15 **the patients I'm concerned about the patients**  
16 **having MS, and my diagnosis would be rule out MS,**  
17 **rule out demyelinating disease. In the radiology**  
18 **department, the radiologist would know that under**  
19 **those circumstances, I want sagittal FLAIR.**  
20 Q. Do you insist on examining sagittal FLAIR  
21 images before deciding whether a patient does or  
22 does not have MS?  
23 **A. Under the usual course of circumstances, I**  
24 **like to see a patient's MRI before making the**

Page 640

1 **diagnosis of MS, and the FLAIR, sagittal FLAIR, is**  
2 **part of the overall study. It's not the only**  
3 **sequence that I base my opinion on.**  
4 Q. Supposing a patient comes in to you for a  
5 second opinion, Dr. Levin, and they come in with an  
6 external CD of an MRI done outside and it does not  
7 include sagittal FLAIR's. Would that influence  
8 your diagnosis of that patient that day?  
9 **A. I couldn't say specifically. It would**  
10 **depend on the individual patient.**  
11 Q. Will you insist on having a second MRI done  
12 with sagittal FLAIR's?  
13 **A. Again, it would depend on the individual**  
14 **patient.**  
15 Q. If you really wanted to rule MS out, would  
16 you do it?  
17 **A. It would depend on the individual patient.**  
18 Q. That answer, do I understand correctly,  
19 Dr. Levin, that there are some patients that you  
20 would diagnose with MS even if they have not had  
21 sagittal FLAIR's done?  
22 **A. I don't believe I said that.**  
23 Q. Please explain, Dr. Levin. In what way  
24 does it depend on the individual patient?

Page 641

1 **A. When I see a patient that I think has MS,**  
2 **it's a clinical diagnosis, so the most important**  
3 **thing for me in evaluating the patient is the**  
4 **clinical evaluation, what is the patient's history,**  
5 **is the history consistent with the diagnosis of MS,**  
6 **what does the examination look like, do I find**  
7 **abnormalities that would suggest to me that there**  
8 **is a neurologic dysfunction, do we see changes that**  
9 **are consistent with the changes of MS, but out of**  
10 **all of the things, it's the history that I would**  
11 **say are most important. Along with that, I'd like**  
12 **to know are there other problems the patient has,**  
13 **general history, the general medical background.**  
14 Q. Thank you, Doctor. Do you --  
15 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection. The doctor  
16 wasn't finished with his question. His answer.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm going to allow  
18 Dr. Padmanabhan to pose the next question. He's  
19 collecting information and he has enough  
20 information for his purposes. Is that correct?  
21 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Thank you.  
22 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) So you would not  
23 insist -- from your answer just now, you would not  
24 insist on looking for Dawson's fingers on the

Page 642

1 sagittal FLAIR? The history and exam is more  
2 important for you?  
3 **A. Once again, sir, it depends on the**  
4 **individual patient, the individual patient's**  
5 **circumstance. It is not unlikely that I would like**  
6 **to have a sagittal FLAIR sequence, but won't say**  
7 **that the sagittal FLAIR sequence by itself is going**  
8 **to cause me to diagnose a patient or not diagnose a**  
9 **patient with MS.**  
10 Q. Thank you. Did you consider, Dr. Levin,  
11 that your knowledge of MRI is sufficient to serve  
12 in a professional licensing hearing?  
13 **A. My knowledge of MRI is sufficient to make**  
14 **me a qualified individual, especially as a**  
15 **neurologist, to interpret MRI's.**  
16 Q. Right, but my question is about actually  
17 testifying at a board hearing. Do you think your  
18 level of knowledge about MRI's is sufficient?  
19 **A. Yes.**  
20 Q. Okay. Why did you not know, Dr. Levin,  
21 what FLAIR stands for when Magistrate Bresler  
22 asked?  
23 **A. Because I can never remember. I've looked**  
24 **it up a hundred times. I've written it down many,**

Page 643

1 **many times and I can never remember.**  
2 Q. Are you able to remember the expansions for  
3 the acronyms for any of the other sequences on  
4 MRI's?  
5 **A. Could you be more specific, please?**  
6 Q. Never mind. If we move to Patient G,  
7 MR 465?  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE: Bates 205?**  
9 **DR. PADMANABHAN: Bates 205.**  
10 **A. That was G as in good?**  
11 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) G as in good, if I am  
12 correct. I will actually double check. Yesterday,  
13 in response to Magistrate Bresler's question, you  
14 had reviewed the radiological images and reports,  
15 and you said, quote, the radiologist says the  
16 corpus callosum is normal; therefore, there are no  
17 Dawson's fingers. Do you recall?  
18 **A. Could you direct me to the page of the**  
19 **record, please?**  
20 Q. Medical Record 465 for Patient G. The MR  
21 report -- the MR report is on page 444.  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE: And the Bates number?**  
23 **DR. PADMANABHAN: 201, sir.**  
24 **A. Could you repeat the question, please?**

Page 644

1 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) You testified that  
2 the radiologist says that sagittal FLAIR shows a  
3 normal corpus callosum, and therefore, there are no  
4 Dawson's fingers. Are Dawson's fingers always seen  
5 inside the corpus callosum?  
6 **A. No.**  
7 Q. Would you then be retracting your statement  
8 from yesterday?  
9 **A. Dawson's fingers are seen either at the**  
10 **corpus callosum or in the region of the corpus**  
11 **callosum. Reviewing the report from the doctor,**  
12 **going through the entirety of his --**  
13 Q. Correct, but the question before you,  
14 Dr. Levin --  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE: This answer I am going**  
16 **to allow to continue.**  
17 **A. Looking at the entirety of the report, I**  
18 **interpreted the statement of a normal corpus**  
19 **callosum, given the other information that the**  
20 **doctor describes, that the corpus callosum and the**  
21 **surrounding region were normal. Since Dawson's**  
22 **fingers involve the corpus callosum itself and the**  
23 **pericallosal region, this led me to believe that he**  
24 **did not find Dawson's fingers. In addition, his**

Page 645

1 **impression was mild non-specific supratentorial**  
2 **white matter changes, and he does not make any**  
3 **mention of Dawson's fingers or any other**  
4 **abnormality on the MRI.**  
5 Q. Thank you, but my question to you  
6 specifically is about your testimony yesterday when  
7 you said repeatedly that a normal corpus callosum  
8 means no Dawson's fingers.  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE: And your question**  
10 **about this is whether that's correct?**  
11 **DR. PADMANABHAN: Yes.**  
12 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Do you agree with  
13 that statement?  
14 **A. That's incorrect.**  
15 Q. So are you retracting that statement,  
16 Doctor?  
17 **A. I believe I answered your question, sir.**  
18 **THE MAGISTRATE: For my benefit, if you**  
19 **could answer it again?**  
20 **A. Answer the question again?**  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE: Yeah, whether you're**  
22 **retracting.**  
23 **A. Would you please repeat it?**  
24 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Yes. Your statement

Page 646

1 twice yesterday was a normal corpus callosum means  
2 there are no Dawson's fingers.  
3 **A. I would retract that statement.**  
4 Q. When explaining multiple sclerosis to  
5 Magistrate Bresler yesterday, you said that if --  
6 that one diagnosed patients with MS if they had two  
7 lesions separated by place and time and that it was  
8 called the Poser criteria. Have you ever studied  
9 the Poser criteria?  
10 **A. I've reviewed the Poser criteria many times**  
11 **and actually discussed it with Dr. Poser.**  
12 Q. Have you ever heard of the Schumacher  
13 criteria?  
14 **A. I am familiar with the name. I don't know**  
15 **the specific criteria.**  
16 Q. Do you know the difference between the  
17 Schumacher criteria and the Poser criteria?  
18 **A. Once again, I do not off the top of my head**  
19 **know the Schumacher criteria.**  
20 Q. The explanation you gave Magistrate Bresler  
21 yesterday, Dr. Levin, was actually the Schumacher  
22 criteria.  
23 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
24 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Two lesions separated

Page 647

1 by place and time.  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm going to -- you  
3 have to pose it as a question rather than a  
4 statement.  
5 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, why do you  
6 not know the difference between the Poser criteria  
7 and the Schumacher criteria?  
8 **A. As previously noted, I do not know the**  
9 **Schumacher criteria.**  
10 Q. Dr. Levin, without knowing the criteria,  
11 why are you testifying about multiple sclerosis?  
12 **A. Because I'm experienced and knowledgeable**  
13 **in the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.**  
14 Q. Without the use of the criteria, how have  
15 you been practicing all these years?  
16 **A. Quite adequately.**  
17 Q. From that answer, am I to take it,  
18 Dr. Levin, that you do not feel the need to know  
19 the criteria?  
20 **A. Which criteria are we speaking about?**  
21 Q. The Schumacher or the Poser.  
22 **A. The Poser criteria, I explained it to the**  
23 **best of my memory. It is a criteria that we use,**  
24 **as we do use other criteria, in diagnosing patients**

Page 648

1 **with MS. The information that I discussed is a**  
2 **fairly standard view of the diagnosis of multiple**  
3 **sclerosis from a neurologist.**  
4 Q. Fairly standard view in which era of  
5 medicine, Dr. Levin?  
6 **A. It was a standard view when the Poser**  
7 **criteria were being used, and when the McDonald**  
8 **criteria came to be, then that became the standard**  
9 **view.**  
10 Q. So would you say -- would you agree that  
11 two lesions separated by place and time which you  
12 identified as the Poser criteria is no longer the  
13 standard criteria?  
14 **A. It still can be the standard criteria. We**  
15 **don't necessarily have to have two lesions. If you**  
16 **-- if you have a patient that satisfies the**  
17 **McDonald criteria so that you can add the MRI**  
18 **criteria, then you may not need to have two lesions**  
19 **over space and time.**  
20 Q. Do you know the difference, Dr. Levin,  
21 between the Poser criteria and the McDonald  
22 criteria?  
23 **A. Yes, sir.**  
24 Q. What is the difference, sir?

Page 649

1 **A. The McDonald criteria includes MRI data,**  
2 **includes having specific MRI changes that are**  
3 **consistent with the diagnosis of MS. The Poser**  
4 **criteria do not reference MRI data.**  
5 Q. What do the Poser criteria reference in  
6 place of the MRI?  
7 **A. They don't -- nothing in place of the MRI.**  
8 Q. Dr. Levin, have you ever heard of visual  
9 evoke potentials?  
10 **A. Yes.**  
11 Q. Have you ever heard of brain stem auditory  
12 evoke potentials?  
13 **A. Yes.**  
14 Q. Have you ever heard of somatosensory evoke  
15 potentials?  
16 **A. Yes.**  
17 Q. Have you ever ordered them on patients?  
18 **A. Yes.**  
19 Q. Why would one order those tests?  
20 **A. When you're looking to find whether there's**  
21 **dysfunction in a particular area of the nervous**  
22 **system, visual evoke potentials are looking for**  
23 **abnormalities in the visual pathways specifically**  
24 **related to the optic nerve, although it may be**

Page 650

1 anywhere in the visual pathways. It goes back.  
2 Brain stem evoke potential, we're looking for  
3 evidence of brain stem dysfunction. In  
4 somatosensory evoke potentials, we're looking for  
5 abnormalities in the sensory pathway.  
6 Q. In which diseases would you normally order  
7 these tests to confirm or reject?  
8 A. Three different studies are used for many  
9 different diseases.  
10 Q. Does hearing the name VEP help you recall  
11 the tests that are part of the Poser criteria?  
12 A. It doesn't help me to recall anything  
13 specific. I know that there are additional aspects  
14 of the Poser criteria in addition to clinical  
15 information. I know that the Poser criteria also  
16 can include different studies that would suggest  
17 that there is involvement of another portion of the  
18 nervous system, including evoke potentials. It can  
19 also include other studies including spinal fluid  
20 examination.  
21 Q. Thank you. Have you ever studied the  
22 Brecht's criteria?  
23 A. Pardon me?  
24 Q. Have you ever studied the Brecht's criteria

Page 651

1 for MS?  
2 A. No.  
3 Q. Do you know how many McDonald's criteria  
4 there actually are?  
5 A. I'm not sure. It's been revised, and I  
6 don't recall if it's been revised once or twice.  
7 I'm not sure.  
8 Q. So you haven't kept up with the revisions,  
9 Doctor?  
10 A. Excuse me?  
11 Q. Have you kept up with the revisions of the  
12 McDonald's criteria?  
13 A. I believe so.  
14 Q. Would you be able to tell the Court, what's  
15 the difference between the 2001 McDonald criteria  
16 and the 2010 McDonald criteria?  
17 A. I'm not sure.  
18 Q. Did you inform Magistrate Bresler that  
19 there are now three McDonald's criteria with  
20 significant changes along the way?  
21 A. No.  
22 Q. Why not?  
23 A. Did not seem to be appropriate to the  
24 discussion.

Page 652

1 Q. Which McDonald's criteria do you use in  
2 your practice in diagnosing MS?  
3 A. If you're talking about which revision I  
4 use --  
5 Q. Yes.  
6 A. I'm not sure.  
7 Q. Yesterday, twice to Magistrate Bresler you  
8 testified that if you don't see specific MRI  
9 changes, you cannot diagnose MS. Can you reference  
10 Magistrate Bresler to where the McDonald criteria  
11 state that?  
12 A. Could you please repeat what you stated was  
13 my testimony?  
14 Q. Just a few minutes ago, when you described  
15 the McDonald criteria, you said that there were  
16 specific lesions on MRI that have to satisfy the  
17 McDonald criteria in order for a patient to be  
18 diagnosed with MS, and yesterday, twice, you  
19 testified to explain to Magistrate Bresler that if  
20 you don't see specific MRI changes, you cannot  
21 diagnose MS.  
22 THE MAGISTRATE: Well, let's confirm  
23 the premise of those questions. Do you remember  
24 testifying?

Page 653

1 A. I do remember discussing the McDonald  
2 criteria. I remember discussing MRI's. I don't  
3 recall stating that if the patient does not meet  
4 the McDonald criteria, then you cannot diagnose MS.  
5 I believe I stated that it was helpful in  
6 diagnosing it and that the criteria can be useful  
7 in diagnosing multiple sclerosis. MS is ultimately  
8 a --  
9 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin --  
10 THE MAGISTRATE: That's okay. I think  
11 Dr. Padmanabhan is ready for his next question.  
12 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) The question was  
13 specific about something that you said five minutes  
14 ago, that the McDonald's criteria requires you to  
15 have specific lesions on MRI.  
16 THE MAGISTRATE: Okay.  
17 Dr. Padmanabhan, you can ask about this subject,  
18 but we've already established what he testified to,  
19 what he remembers testifying to. You can use that  
20 to get his attention to a particular subject and  
21 then you can ask a question about it.  
22 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, are you  
23 aware of what the McDonald criteria states about  
24 the necessity for specific lesions on MRI?

Page 654

1 **A. I cannot recite the McDonald criteria to**  
2 **you.**  
3 Q. Do you know, Dr. Levin, how MRI is used for  
4 trials for MS drugs?  
5 **A. It can be used in many different ways.**  
6 Q. Can you please name some?  
7 **A. Oftentimes, trials will look at the number**  
8 **of new T2 FLAIR signal lesions, look at black**  
9 **holes, can look at contrast-enhanced lesions, can**  
10 **look at the number of lesions in different areas of**  
11 **the central nervous system. Those are a few that**  
12 **come to mind.**  
13 Q. Do you know, Dr. Levin, how endpoints are  
14 designed for trials of MS drugs?  
15 **A. No.**  
16 Q. When looking at the result of MS trials,  
17 which is one of the responsibilities of a physician  
18 --  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** That's not in  
20 evidence, so you can pose the question without  
21 that.  
22 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Looking at results of  
23 trials of MS drugs, would you be able to understand  
24 the results without understanding the endpoints?

Page 655

1 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
2 Q. When you look at the result of an MS trial,  
3 so a study is done and a result is issued at a  
4 conference in San Francisco, for example, would you  
5 understand the result of the trial without  
6 understanding the endpoints used to derive the  
7 result?  
8 **A. If I -- in reviewing a trial, then I would**  
9 **look at the endpoint of the trial as an important**  
10 **part of the trial.**  
11 Q. What effect does the endpoint have on the  
12 final result?  
13 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
14 Q. Have you ever designed trials, Dr. Levin?  
15 **A. No.**  
16 Q. Do you participate in journal clubs with  
17 students and residents on a regular basis to  
18 discuss trial results?  
19 **A. No.**  
20 Q. Are you famous -- are you familiar with the  
21 famous benefit trial from back in 2005?  
22 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection as to famous.  
23 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Well-known.  
24 **A. I --**

Page 656

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'll allow it.  
2 **A. I know the term the benefit trial. There**  
3 **have been many, many medication trials in MS. My**  
4 **guess is that I'm quite familiar with it, but I**  
5 **don't off the top of my head remember which is the**  
6 **benefit trial.**  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Doctor, if I could  
8 interject? Is it famous, in your opinion?  
9 **A. It's a well-known trial.**  
10 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) The object of the  
11 benefit trial, the endpoint of the benefit trial  
12 was the appearance of a second lesion.  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** You have to pose a  
14 question rather than making a statement.  
15 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Right. I'm getting  
16 there.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** But if you could, pose  
18 it as a question.  
19 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Do you know the  
20 object of the benefit trial in terms of the  
21 endpoint?  
22 **A. Only in what you just said.**  
23 Q. Okay. Are you aware that the FDA gave  
24 priority to clinical evidence over MR images in

Page 657

1 deciding a second lesion had actually occurred?  
2 **A. I don't remember that.**  
3 Q. Are you aware of the acronym RIS?  
4 **A. Yes.**  
5 Q. What does RIS stand for?  
6 **A. It's radiologic isolated syndrome.**  
7 Q. Are you familiar with the state of the art  
8 in MS regarding RIS?  
9 **A. I don't know.**  
10 Q. The work of Darin Okuda?  
11 (Reporter clarification.)  
12 Q. O-K-U-D-A, Darin Okuda.  
13 **A. No.**  
14 Q. On a weekly, monthly basis, do you review  
15 RIS or early MS research papers?  
16 **A. Not specifically.**  
17 Q. On an annual basis, how much time do you  
18 spend reading about MS?  
19 **A. Couldn't answer that. I don't know.**  
20 Q. From your CV, Dr. Levin, I see that you do  
21 EMG's.  
22 **A. Yes.**  
23 Q. So do you mostly spend time reading about  
24 EMG's and related muscle disorders?

Page 658

1 A. No.  
2 Q. What do you spend time catching up with?  
3 A. **I do reading about many different areas of**  
4 **neurology. I frequently will read about MS, since**  
5 **it's an area that I've been interested in. I read**  
6 **about many different areas of neurology.**  
7 Q. Could you turn to MR 465, also in  
8 Patient G?  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And the Bates number,  
10 please?  
11 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Sorry, sir. 206. I  
12 apologize. Because he doesn't have the Bates  
13 number, I keep forgetting to mention it.  
14 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Yesterday, you stated  
15 that this patient, Patient G, does not have MS  
16 because she does not have exacerbations and  
17 remissions. Do you have any scientific evidence to  
18 support that statement?  
19 A. **The only evidence that I have is your**  
20 **records.**  
21 Q. Once again, Dr. Levin, your statement was  
22 that she could not have MS because she did not have  
23 exacerbations and remissions?  
24 A. **I believe that my statement was that the**

Page 659

1 **patient did not appear to have MS and the only -- I**  
2 **have no independent information or knowledge of**  
3 **this patient. The only information I have is based**  
4 **on the medical records.**  
5 Q. And your statement, based on this one note,  
6 was because it did not record exacerbations and  
7 remissions, she could not have MS?  
8 A. **I'd have to go back and look and see how**  
9 **many notes were before that.**  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Levin is checking  
11 his notes, which is fine.  
12 A. **That was not the only note in the record.**  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm sorry. He's  
14 checking the medical records, not his notes.  
15 A. **So checking the medical records and my**  
16 **notes, the -- there were other records prior to**  
17 **this at a date of 4/13/2010.**  
18 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) My question,  
19 Dr. Levin, is can a person have MS even if she does  
20 not have exacerbations and remissions.  
21 A. **Yes.**  
22 Q. So are you retracting the statement you  
23 made yesterday --  
24 A. **No.**

Page 660

1 Q. -- to Magistrate Bresler?  
2 A. **No.**  
3 Q. They're completely contradictory,  
4 Dr. Levin.  
5 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, you  
7 cannot argue. You have to pose questions.  
8 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Would you not agree,  
9 Dr. Levin, that your statement today is the  
10 opposite of the statement you made yesterday?  
11 A. **No. May I respond? You asked me if a**  
12 **patient can have a diagnosis of MS without having**  
13 **exacerbations and remissions, and my answer was a**  
14 **patient can have a diagnosis of MS without**  
15 **exacerbations and remissions. If a patient has**  
16 **primary progressive disease, they frequently do not**  
17 **have exacerbations or remissions. They may have a**  
18 **clinical course that is progressively downhill.**  
19 Q. Yesterday, did you explain primary  
20 progressive disease to Magistrate Bresler?  
21 A. **No.**  
22 Q. You further declared that this patient's  
23 imbalance was due to her fibromyalgia. Quote, when  
24 the fibro got better, the imbalance got better. Do

Page 661

1 you have any evidence that fibromyalgia causes or  
2 is related to imbalance?  
3 A. **My statement related to your record. I was**  
4 **only quoting information from your report.**  
5 Q. You were commenting on my report,  
6 Dr. Levin, and your comment was --  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, Dr. Padmanabhan.  
8 Ask --  
9 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I will get there.  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Pose it as a question.  
11 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Given your comment  
12 yesterday that when the fibro got better, the  
13 imbalance got better as a means of explaining to  
14 Magistrate Bresler why it was not related to MS,  
15 can you explain how fibromyalgia is related to  
16 imbalance?  
17 A. **In general, fibromyalgia is not related to**  
18 **imbalance.**  
19 Q. Why, Dr. Levin, did you make this  
20 association yesterday?  
21 A. **I made the association based on your note.**  
22 Q. Where in my note does it say that the fibro  
23 got better and the imbalance got better?  
24 A. **Some weeks she is better in terms of the**

Page 662

1 **fibromyalgia. Her balance then is also better.**  
2 Q. Is there a causal relationship, in your  
3 mind, Dr. Levin?  
4 **A. It does appear to be so, according to your**  
5 **note. I was only quoting your note, sir.**  
6 Q. Are you aware, Dr. Levin, of the concept of  
7 underlying disease?  
8 **A. I have heard the concept. It's not one**  
9 **that I typically use.**  
10 Q. Please explain to Magistrate Bresler what  
11 your understanding of underlying disease is.  
12 **A. It's a general term that I believe can**  
13 **relate to someone presenting with a specific**  
14 **symptom and that the symptom may relate to some**  
15 **underlying -- other underlying condition. For**  
16 **example, a patient may present with a neuropathy**  
17 **and it turns out they have diabetes, so the**  
18 **underlying disease would be diabetes that is**  
19 **contributing to the neuropathy.**  
20 Q. So when one treats the underlying disease,  
21 what happens to the symptom?  
22 **A. The question is too general for me to**  
23 **answer.**  
24 Q. In the case of --

Page 663

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, if I  
2 could ask a follow-up question? How clear are you  
3 in your definition of underlying disease?  
4 **A. It's a very general term. I'm trying to**  
5 **come up with an example to satisfy the question,**  
6 **but it's a very general term.**  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you.  
8 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Does treatment of  
9 diabetes help the peripheral neuropathy?  
10 **A. It depends on the individual patient.**  
11 Q. Is it possible that treatment of the  
12 underlying diabetes will help the neuropathy?  
13 **A. Yes.**  
14 Q. Is it possible that treatment of the  
15 diabetes will prevent the return of disease?  
16 **A. Yes.**  
17 Q. In the binder, there's a note from PubMed  
18 about the Swanton criteria, because it was  
19 mentioned in one of the notes, but I find that  
20 yesterday, you did not pass any comment about the  
21 Swanton criteria. Would you like to comment about  
22 the Swanton criteria today?  
23 **A. I don't know what the Swanton criteria are.**  
24 **There is an article that I was able to find. I**

Page 664

1 **looked up Swanton because of seeing the Swanton**  
2 **criteria listed. The article that I found was an**  
3 **article published by Dr. Swanton, where he**  
4 **describes a study, he describes impressions about**  
5 **multiple sclerosis. I did not see anywhere that it**  
6 **said these were called the Swanton criteria. I did**  
7 **not know if Dr. Swanton had published other**  
8 **articles, if there were other impressions that he**  
9 **had in other places. All I had was a single**  
10 **article published by Dr. Swanton.**  
11 Q. Have you ever discussed this article with  
12 MS specialists?  
13 **A. No.**  
14 Q. It's Josephine Swanton. It's a woman, just  
15 as a --  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, it  
17 has to be questions.  
18 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Is it your testimony,  
19 then, sir, that you don't know the difference  
20 between the Swanton criteria and the 2001 or 2005  
21 McDonald's criteria?  
22 **A. I have no information --**  
23 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection --  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Overruled.

Page 665

1 **MR. PAIKOS:** -- that there is a  
2 criteria.  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Overruled. The doctor  
4 can answer.  
5 **A. I have no information about the Swanton**  
6 **criteria.**  
7 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Yesterday, you used  
8 an image downloaded from the Internet. Do you know  
9 the source of the image?  
10 **A. I did not.**  
11 Q. Why did you agree to use an image for which  
12 you did not know the source?  
13 **A. It was downloaded by the legal nurse from**  
14 **the Board of Medicine. She is a reliable source.**  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And Doctor, if you  
16 need the source of that, let us know.  
17 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I still haven't  
18 received a copy.  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If you need the source  
20 of it, let us know.  
21 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Did you choose said  
22 Internet image?  
23 **A. Did I personally choose it?**  
24 Q. Yes.

Page 666

1 **A. No.**  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If I could interject a  
3 question, as long as we're on this, just to make it  
4 easier so I don't have to come back, the image --  
5 what was shown you from the Internet, did you  
6 consider that a representative image?  
7 **A. Yes.**  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Did you think it was  
9 instructive?  
10 **A. Yes.**  
11 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** Just as a follow-up  
12 question, would you consider the legal nurse from  
13 the board sufficient to maintain your credibility  
14 as an expert witness in this proceeding?  
15 **A. Could you restate your question?**  
16 **Q.** You allowed a legal nurse to choose an  
17 image that you presented testimony with?  
18 **A. Yes.**  
19 **Q.** And did it meet your specs?  
20 **A. Once again, please.**  
21 **Q.** Did it meet your standards?  
22 **A. Did the image meet my standards?**  
23 **Q.** Did the choice that the legal nurse made  
24 meet your standards?

Page 667

1 **A. Yes. She chose an image with an excellent**  
2 **representation of Dawson's fingers.**  
3 **Q.** You explained to Magistrate Bresler that  
4 CellCept is chemotherapy that is used for cancer  
5 when Magistrate Bresler asked you what CellCept is.  
6 Is chemotherapy for cancer the main indication used  
7 for CellCept?  
8 **A. I believe so. I would have to go back and**  
9 **look at the reference on CellCept that I have.**  
10 **Q.** Please do.  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And Dr. Padmanabhan,  
12 if you could point us to the exhibits?  
13 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** One second, sir. I  
14 have it here. It is Tab 23B.  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Tab 23 what?  
16 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes, sir. B.  
17 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** My question to you is  
18 did you ever look up the FDA package insert for  
19 CellCept prior to coming here to testify.  
20 **A. I looked up the information on Up To Date.**  
21 **Q.** Is that considered sufficient as opposed to  
22 looking at the official FDA package insert?  
23 **A. I felt that for the purposes of my review**  
24 **that that was sufficient.**

Page 668

1 **Q.** After reviewing the Up To Date printout, is  
2 it correct that you came and testified that  
3 CellCept is chemotherapy used for cancer? I don't  
4 mean now, Dr. Levin. I mean before you testified  
5 yesterday.  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Well, I will allow you  
7 to -- him to refer to his testimony as an  
8 introduction to your next question, but not a  
9 question about his testimony, what he actually  
10 testified to.  
11 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** May I ask a question,  
12 Your Honor?  
13 **A. Would you like me to respond to your**  
14 **question, sir?**  
15 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** I will repeat my  
16 question. After reviewing and printing out this Up  
17 To Date printout, did you feel that CellCept is  
18 chemotherapy for cancer?  
19 **A. If I testified so, that was an error.**  
20 **Q.** Do you retract that statement, that  
21 CellCept is chemotherapy for cancer?  
22 **A. Yes. Would you like me to further discuss**  
23 **the indication?**  
24 **Q.** No, thank you. You further said that you

Page 669

1 have never seen CellCept used, but the Brigham &  
2 Women's Partners MS Center does use it on an  
3 experimental basis for a few patients. When the  
4 government hired you to testify against me, did you  
5 look up my credentials?  
6 **A. No.**  
7 **Q.** Have you ever seen my CV?  
8 **A. No.**  
9 **Q.** Was it not important for you to look up my  
10 CV before you came here to testify?  
11 **A. No.**  
12 **Q.** So I take it it is true that when you came  
13 here on Monday, you were not aware that I have done  
14 a three-year fellowship in neuroimmunology at the  
15 same Brigham & Women's MS Center?  
16 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
17 **A. No.**  
18 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'll allow it.  
19 **Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN)** Would you agree that  
20 a person who trained at the Brigham & Women's MS  
21 Center for three years in neuroimmunology would be  
22 a doctor experienced in immunosuppressant therapy?  
23 **A. Yes.**  
24 **Q.** And that would meet the criteria in your Up

Page 670

1 To Date printout, that only health care providers  
2 experienced in immunosuppressive therapy may  
3 prescribe CellCept?  
4 **A. Yes.**  
5 Q. Thank you. Have you routinely treated MS  
6 patients with cyclophosphamide?  
7 **A. No.**  
8 Q. Are you comfortable with treatment  
9 protocols and managing patients on  
10 cyclophosphamide?  
11 **A. No.**  
12 Q. Have you routinely treated patients with  
13 Rituximab?  
14 **A. No.**  
15 Q. Are you comfortable with treatment  
16 protocols and managing patients on Rituximab?  
17 **A. No.**  
18 Q. Have you treated patients with daclizumab?  
19 **A. No.**  
20 Q. Are you comfortable with the treatment  
21 protocols and managing patients on daclizumab?  
22 **A. No.**  
23 Q. You explained to Magistrate Bresler that  
24 you had not known until you came here what anti-RNP

Page 671

1 was. How many years have you been in practice,  
2 Dr. Levin?  
3 **A. Thirty-seven.**  
4 Q. As a neurologist, have you ever had to rule  
5 out the rheumatological conditions in patients seen  
6 in the neurology clinic?  
7 **A. The only time I worked in the neurology  
8 clinic was as a resident, and then during my --  
9 excuse me. Would you repeat the question?**  
10 Q. As a neurologist, have you ever had to rule  
11 out rheumatological conditions in patients who come  
12 to see you for a neurological evaluation?  
13 **A. Yes.**  
14 Q. Are there any rheumatological diseases that  
15 cause neurological involvement?  
16 **A. Many.**  
17 Q. Would you then agree that knowing which  
18 rheumatological labs to order would be part of the  
19 standard of care for any practicing neurologist?  
20 **A. Yes.**  
21 Q. Would you agree that not ever ordering  
22 anti-RNP for any patient falls below the standard  
23 of care for any practicing neurologist?  
24 **A. No.**

Page 672

1 Q. Why is that, Dr. Levin?  
2 **A. It's not a standard test used by most  
3 neurologists.**  
4 Q. Is there any evidence to support that  
5 statement?  
6 **A. There are -- there are many other studies  
7 that we use to screen patients for rheumatologic  
8 disorders. That is not one of the standard  
9 screening tests.**  
10 Q. Would you be surprised that someone at --  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm going to stop you  
12 right there. I don't know if you remember. I said  
13 that's the kind of cross-examination question I'm  
14 not going to allow.  
15 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I was going on.  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I think I've told the  
17 parties twice, if you start a question with would  
18 it surprise you, I'm going to stop you right there.  
19 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Would you consider it  
20 consistent that someone who trained for three years  
21 in neuroimmunology at the Brigham would be likely  
22 to order a test like anti-RNP?  
23 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Overruled.

Page 673

1 **A. Since I'm -- was not familiar with the test  
2 and I had no information in regards to your  
3 background, I could not have made that assumption  
4 prior to this moment.**  
5 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) In the binder  
6 presented by the government here, there are a few  
7 pages about anti-RNP. Did you supply that  
8 document?  
9 **A. I did.**  
10 Q. Would you consider Wikipedia a credible  
11 source for a professional license hearing?  
12 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection as to for  
13 professional license hearing.  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Overruled.  
15 **A. I consider Wikipedia to be a reasonable  
16 source to obtain very basic information about a  
17 test.**  
18 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Why would one need  
19 only basic information for a professional board  
20 hearing?  
21 **A. The specific area covered by this  
22 particular test was a very tiny part of all the  
23 2,000 some -- excuse me; I believe perhaps 6,000  
24 records that I reviewed. The information that I**

Page 674

1 received from reviewing Wikipedia seemed to be  
2 sufficient for me to understand it and to  
3 understand your interpretation of the test.  
4 Q. From the record, what was your  
5 understanding of my interpretation of the test?  
6 A. **May we go back to your note?**  
7 Q. Yes. It's Patient G, MR 465.  
8 A. **465?**  
9 Q. Yes.  
10 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** One second,  
11 Magistrate Bresler.  
12 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) 466, Bates 206.  
13 A. **Your note indicates the only blood marker**  
14 **that was firmly positive was anti-RNP of greater**  
15 **than eight, with a normal of zero to 0.9, which is**  
16 **very suggestive, given her sister has lupus. I**  
17 **interpreted your note as indicating that this was**  
18 **suggestive that the patient had a rheumatologic**  
19 **disorder, given that her sister has lupus and that**  
20 **this is a strongly positive test for a**  
21 **rheumatologic disorder.**  
22 Q. Have you ever diagnosed lupus in a patient?  
23 A. **I'm not sure.**  
24 Q. Not sure?

Page 675

1 A. **Correct.**  
2 Q. So you may have diagnosed someone with  
3 lupus, but you don't recall?  
4 A. **Correct.**  
5 Q. How many patients with lupus do you have in  
6 your practice, Dr. Levin?  
7 A. **I don't believe I have any at this point.**  
8 Q. How many patients with lupus have you ever  
9 treated, Dr. Levin?  
10 A. **I'm not sure.**  
11 Q. Yesterday, Magistrate Bresler asked you if  
12 you looked up anti-SM after you came across it in  
13 the record, and you said you did not. Please  
14 explain why you never looked it up.  
15 A. **It did not seem to be important in the**  
16 **context of the medical records. We were not trying**  
17 **to, or I was not trying to make a rheumatologic**  
18 **diagnosis. There was the information that the**  
19 **patient had a strongly positive anti-RNP, and**  
20 **again, reading your notes, that this was very**  
21 **suggestive. I assume you were stating suggestive**  
22 **of a rheumatologic disorder.**  
23 Q. Did you look up anti-SM yesterday after  
24 Magistrate Bresler asked you about it?

Page 676

1 A. **No.**  
2 Q. Without looking it up, how would you  
3 interpret the statement here in this note,  
4 Dr. Levin, that thankfully, the anti-SM is  
5 negative?  
6 A. **That you were pleased that the anti-SM was**  
7 **negative and this helped you to rule out a more**  
8 **serious disorder.**  
9 Q. Would it not be important to understand it,  
10 Dr. Levin, to see whether or not my diagnosis of MS  
11 met the standard of care?  
12 A. **I didn't believe that the SM or the RNP**  
13 **were directly related to the diagnosis of MS.**  
14 Q. Would you agree that they are related to  
15 ruling out other conditions?  
16 A. **Yes.**  
17 Q. Would you say that not ordering anti-SM  
18 antibody in any patient ever falls below the  
19 standard of care and that some patients may have  
20 been left undiagnosed as a result?  
21 A. **Not for a practicing neurologist, no.**  
22 Q. Would it be below the standard of care for  
23 a practicing neuroimmunologist to never test for  
24 anti-SM?

Page 677

1 A. **I have no knowledge about the standard of**  
2 **care for a neuroimmunologist.**  
3 Q. What is your understanding of a  
4 neuroimmunologist, Dr. Levin?  
5 A. **I have limited understanding as to what a**  
6 **neuroimmunologist is.**  
7 Q. What is SLE?  
8 A. **Systemic lupus erythematosus.**  
9 Q. Why would someone focusing on MS want to  
10 know about lupus?  
11 A. **Patients with lupus can present with**  
12 **neurologic changes similar to patients with MS.**  
13 Q. So if one is a practicing neurologist who  
14 has ten to 15 MS patients in his practice, would it  
15 not be useful to know how to rule out lupus?  
16 A. **Yes.**  
17 Q. How does one rule out lupus?  
18 A. **On the clinical history, looking for**  
19 **clinical history to suggest lupus, looking at a**  
20 **careful examination, looking for evidence of skin**  
21 **changes, of joint changes, and then doing**  
22 **laboratory studies including sedimentation rate,**  
23 **ANA, RA, and if I'm suspicious that a patient has**  
24 **lupus, I will obtain a consultation with a**

Page 678

1 **rheumatologist.**  
2 Q. So you would not rule out lupus yourself?  
3 **A. If I was suspicious, I would refer to a**  
4 **rheumatologist.**  
5 Q. Is it correct, then, Dr. Levin, that you  
6 have never ordered lupus tests to rule out lupus?  
7 **A. I don't recall specifically doing that**  
8 **myself. Usually, it would be I would refer the**  
9 **patient and the rheumatologist would be ordering a**  
10 **lupus panel.**  
11 Q. Would a physician who has never ruled out  
12 lupus be considered qualified to express an opinion  
13 about standard of care in a professional board  
14 hearing?  
15 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Overruled.  
17 **A. I can't answer that question.**  
18 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, when you  
19 were invited to testify at this hearing, what was  
20 your understanding of the role that you were to  
21 play?  
22 **A. That I was to review the records, have**  
23 **discussions with the nurse and the attorney and**  
24 **give them an objective opinion as to my findings on**

Page 679

1 **the records, and then provide testimony, giving**  
2 **objective opinions at -- through the testimony and**  
3 **submitting to cross-examination.**  
4 Q. Does that not also involve interpreting the  
5 notes?  
6 **A. Yes.**  
7 Q. How does one correctly interpret the notes  
8 without knowing what is written here?  
9 **A. There were, again, many thousands of pages,**  
10 **and this was a single word or a single abbreviation**  
11 **of a test within those many thousands of records.**  
12 **Given the total review that I did of these records,**  
13 **this did not appear to be essential for me to**  
14 **review to give an opinion.**  
15 Q. Is it not correct, Dr. Levin, that every  
16 record is important?  
17 **A. Could you clarify your question, please?**  
18 Q. Is it not important that every record  
19 requires the same level of attention as every other  
20 record?  
21 **A. No.**  
22 Q. How do you decide, Dr. Levin, which record  
23 to give more attention to?  
24 **A. The records that are important are in**

Page 680

1 **general records that contain clinical information.**  
2 Q. Are lupus tests and --  
3 **MR. PAIKOS:** I don't believe the doctor  
4 was done answering the question.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Was there more?  
6 **A. There was.**  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. We're going to  
8 allow more of his answer. There's no standard  
9 formats -- formula as to whether I will, you know,  
10 continue the question or not. This one I will  
11 continue.  
12 **A. The important records are records that**  
13 **contain clinical information. In reviewing the**  
14 **records, there were many records that contained**  
15 **repetitive information. Some of the records**  
16 **contained basic information about the patient's**  
17 **basic data that has nothing to do with the clinical**  
18 **information, or very little. There are many pages**  
19 **that had repetitive information about his continued**  
20 **medication, about phone encounters, records**  
21 **indicating no care advice was given. These records**  
22 **would not be as important, for example, as**  
23 **page 466, page 465, given your evaluation of the**  
24 **patient.**

Page 681

1 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Thank you, Dr. Levin.  
2 Please tell Magistrate Bresler why you did not give  
3 that same level of attention to page 466.  
4 **A. I did give the same level of attention to**  
5 **that page.**  
6 Q. Would a trained neuroimmunologist be  
7 expected to have more of an interest in this subset  
8 of patients, patients with lupus, you know, other  
9 rheumatological conditions, than, say, a regular  
10 practicing neurologist?  
11 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
12 **A. I have no information about the abilities**  
13 **of a neuroimmunologist.**  
14 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) The question was  
15 would a neuroimmunologist be expected to have more  
16 of an interest in immunological disorders.  
17 **A. I have no specific information about the**  
18 **interests of a neuroimmunologist.**  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, if  
20 you would indulge me, let me interject a question  
21 to Dr. Levin. So we have Bates numbers that are  
22 consecutive, you may realize it, and medical  
23 records that have not been introduced into  
24 evidence. I don't know if you're aware of that.

Page 682

1 **A. I am.**  
2 Q. Did you help choose which pages were going  
3 to become exhibits?  
4 **A. I did.**  
5 Q. And on what basis did you choose?  
6 **A. Because there was something on the page**  
7 **that caught my attention.**  
8 Q. And caught your attention because it was  
9 important, unimportant?  
10 **A. When I review medical records, anything**  
11 **that catches my attention that I think may be**  
12 **potentially important, I will flag. Sometimes it**  
13 **turns out at the end of an evaluation that what I**  
14 **had gone through indeed was not important or may**  
15 **have been repetitive, but anything that I thought**  
16 **was potentially important, I flagged, and those**  
17 **were the pages that subsequently were pulled for**  
18 **the records.**  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Thank you, Your  
20 Honor. In fact, that was going to be my next  
21 question.  
22 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Please turn to  
23 page 439.  
24 **THE WITNESS:** I wonder if I might take

Page 683

1 a break.  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Five minutes? Ten  
3 minutes? Whatever people prefer.  
4 **THE WITNESS:** Five minutes.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Five minutes? A  
6 five-minute break.  
7 (Off the record.)  
8 (Recess taken from 2:54 to 2:59.)  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. We're back on  
10 the record.  
11 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, we are now  
12 at Patient G, MR 439, Bates 200. Yesterday, we  
13 discussed your comment about this note, and it  
14 inadvertently became known that there was the  
15 remainder of this note on a second page which was  
16 not in the official binder, MR page 440.  
17 You testified that you were the one who  
18 chose the notes, so I would like to know why you  
19 chose only 439 and not 440.  
20 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If you could back up  
21 and ask Dr. Levin if he was responsible for that?  
22 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** He just told me that.  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** No. It could have  
24 been a simple error. It could have been a decision

Page 684

1 that Mr. Paikos made.  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Actually, I'll  
3 rephrase.  
4 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin,  
5 Magistrate Bresler asked you if you helped choose  
6 the medical records, and you said yes, you chose  
7 pages that caught your attention?  
8 **A. Correct.**  
9 Q. Would I then be correct in understanding  
10 that page 439 caught your attention, but page 440  
11 did not?  
12 **A. No.**  
13 Q. Was it a simple error, then, that page 440  
14 was not included?  
15 **A. I'm looking at my notes. My notes indicate**  
16 **pages 439 to 440. I did write down all of the**  
17 **pages from all of the records that I recommended be**  
18 **pulled. I cannot state if perhaps someone did not**  
19 **pull that page number by mistake.**  
20 Q. What do your notes indicate, Dr. Levin?  
21 Did you include page 440 to be included?  
22 **A. Yes.**  
23 Q. When you discussed page 439 here yesterday,  
24 did you tailor your opinions only to what was on

Page 685

1 page 439, or did you notice that one page was  
2 missing?  
3 **A. No. My opinion was based on 439 and 440.**  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Which you do have in  
5 front of you?  
6 **A. Yes, sir.**  
7 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Has the government  
8 given you page 440?  
9 **MR. PAIKOS:** I have not. I was waiting  
10 for a break where we discuss procedural issues.  
11 I've provided one to Dr. Padmanabhan and I have  
12 another copy here.  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** All right, so I'm now  
14 going to admit into evidence Patient G's Medical  
15 Record 440. There is no Bates number, but I'm  
16 going to insert it between Bates 200 and Bates 201.  
17 **MR. PAIKOS:** I think we've noted at the  
18 bottom Bates 200A.  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** 200A. Thank you. And  
20 I'm also noting we're talking five substantive  
21 words, will start Plaquenil and test ordered.  
22 (Exhibit admitted into evidence.)  
23 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, is it not  
24 true that you have testified on numerous notes that

Page 686

1 the notes were incomplete?  
2 **A. Yes.**  
3 Q. Would it not have been important, then, to  
4 note that this note was incomplete inadvertently?  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** We don't have evidence  
6 that it was incomplete inadvertently. The doctor  
7 doesn't know.  
8 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Page 440 was missing  
9 and Dr. Levin gave his comment about --  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, I'm  
11 ruling. We do not know why the page was missing.  
12 And it could have been an error; it could have been  
13 a decision by Mr. Paikos.  
14 **THE WITNESS:** May I comment, Your  
15 Honor?  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** There's no question in  
17 front of you.  
18 **THE WITNESS:** I had the page.  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** That -- that's in  
20 evidence, that you recommended the page; that you  
21 have it in front of you and you recommended the  
22 page.  
23 **THE WITNESS:** All right.  
24 Q. (DR. PADMANABHAN) We now move to

Page 687

1 Patient D, MR 173, Bates 134.  
2 **A. D as and David?**  
3 Q. David, yes. And Magistrate Bresler asked  
4 you if --  
5 **MR. PAIKOS:** Doctor, what was the page?  
6 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** D as in David,  
7 MR 173, Bates 134.  
8 Q. (DR. PADMANABHAN) Ready?  
9 **A. Yes.**  
10 Q. Magistrate Bresler asked you if each  
11 progress note is standalone or could reference a  
12 previous note, and you said yes, referencing  
13 previous notes is standard of care. Correct?  
14 **A. Yes.**  
15 Q. Would it not then be important in an  
16 evidentiary record that the previous notes all be  
17 present?  
18 **A. Yes.**  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm going to take that  
20 as a legal question and I'm going to leave that for  
21 you to argue legally and Mr. Paikos to argue  
22 legally. This is not Patient D's entire record for  
23 reasons I ordered at the prehearing conference. I  
24 didn't want the entire record. I wanted the

Page 688

1 relevant pages.  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** But since his  
3 commentary is about the fact that X is missing, Y  
4 is missing --  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, I am  
6 speaking. If you want to bring to my attention  
7 medical records that are not in evidence, you may  
8 do so. You have the entire medical records for all  
9 these patients, right?  
10 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, Your Honor.  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** You were given the  
12 opportunity to obtain them all?  
13 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, Your Honor.  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** We'll talk about that  
15 in your discovery motions, but if you contend that  
16 there are missing medical records that are  
17 important to your case, you can introduce them as  
18 exhibits.  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Your Honor, I'm not  
20 contending that they're missing from me, but when  
21 we are discussing the content and the fact that  
22 Data X is missing, Data Y is missing from the  
23 record in front of us, then I would think it  
24 important that whatever is missing, we should make

Page 689

1 sure that it's not missing inadvertently.  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Levin has  
3 testified that he's gone through the entire record  
4 for each of these patients and identified the  
5 relevant documents. If you disagree with that  
6 assessment that they're relevant, you can bring  
7 other documents to my attention, but I asked the  
8 parties not to show me every single document  
9 identified with the patient and to do the sorting  
10 that --  
11 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I understand.  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** -- Dr. Levin and  
13 Mr. Paikos have done.  
14 Q. (DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, you testified  
15 --  
16 **A. May I clarify that I have the correct  
17 chart? Is this D as in David or E as in Edgar?**  
18 Q. We've moved on. You explained to  
19 Magistrate Bresler that you have never used NKDA,  
20 the acronym, in your notes?  
21 **A. No.**  
22 Q. What do you say?  
23 **A. Well, after reviewing this, I was  
24 instructed that that means that the patient has no**

Page 690

1 **allergies. My note would say no allergies.**  
2 Q. Is it your testimony, sir, that you have  
3 never come across this term NKDA before in your  
4 33 years of practice?  
5 **A. I think it's very likely that I have, but I**  
6 **did not or was not able to remember it when I saw**  
7 **it.**  
8 Q. Do you see patients in a hospital  
9 in-patient facility?  
10 **A. Yes.**  
11 Q. Do you write notes in a hospital chart?  
12 **A. Yes.**  
13 Q. Before hospitals went electronic, did you  
14 write them on paper?  
15 **A. Yes.**  
16 Q. Did you review paper charts when you went  
17 to consult on patients?  
18 **A. Yes.**  
19 Q. What would the allergy box usually contain?  
20 **A. I don't remember.**  
21 Q. Are you familiar with electronic medical  
22 record systems?  
23 **A. Yes.**  
24 Q. Which electronic medical system -- record

Page 691

1 system do you typically use on a daily basis in  
2 your practice?  
3 **A. Centricity.**  
4 Q. Are you familiar with the structure of the  
5 electronic medical record systems?  
6 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
7 Q. Are you familiar with how notes and  
8 encounters are organized in the electronic medical  
9 record system?  
10 **A. There are many electronic record systems**  
11 **and notes appear to be organized in different ways.**  
12 Q. Okay. Would it be fair to say that if you  
13 came across a computerized printout from a  
14 non-Centricity electronic medical record system, it  
15 would be unfamiliar to you?  
16 **A. No.**  
17 Q. So even if people use different electronic  
18 medical records systems, the output would still be  
19 familiar to you?  
20 **A. Yes, I would anticipate so. I'd have to**  
21 **see the specific medical record before I could**  
22 **definitively comment on that, but in general,**  
23 **medical records include similar types of**  
24 **information.**

Page 692

1 Q. You have gone through 6,000 pages of notes,  
2 you have testified. Are you familiar with the  
3 computerized printout format of these notes?  
4 **A. As reviewed, yes, although I have to admit**  
5 **that there sometimes is some confusion. Sometimes**  
6 **the notes are difficult for me to understand. That**  
7 **doesn't relate specifically to your notes, but**  
8 **there are other notes that are sometimes hard for**  
9 **me to understand.**  
10 Q. Are you familiar with the dates and time  
11 stamps and, you know, all the other verbiage that  
12 comes in in addition to a doctor's note?  
13 **A. In general, yes.**  
14 Q. When we moved from paper charts to  
15 electronic charts, did the number of pages that  
16 became part of the record increase?  
17 **A. Yes.**  
18 Q. When an electronic medical record outputs a  
19 printout, what other material gets printed along  
20 with the doctor's note?  
21 **A. That varies from electronic medical to --**  
22 **electronic medical record from doctor's note to**  
23 **doctor's note.**  
24 Q. But at your facility and your practice,

Page 693

1 typically, what is contained in your note?  
2 **A. The past history, medications, allergies.**  
3 **The prescriptions are printed out as they are sent**  
4 **to the pharmacy or as they're written or written**  
5 **into the computer. The basic information about the**  
6 **patient, their name, their address, other basic**  
7 **data about the patient. I'm sure I'm missing other**  
8 **things.**  
9 Q. Would it not be important to include all of  
10 those printouts when recording in a physician's  
11 note?  
12 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
13 Q. When people input data into the electronic  
14 medical record, do they input data into simply one  
15 open page, or do they put it into separate windows?  
16 **A. I can't speak for every medical record.**  
17 Q. How about with Centricity, the one you use  
18 every day?  
19 **A. Do you have a specific question about that?**  
20 Q. Right. How is the data input into the GE  
21 Centricity system?  
22 **A. Data is put in in different ways. There**  
23 **are different windows to put in the basic data**  
24 **about the patient, their address, their phone**

Page 694

1 number, their age, referring doctor, basic  
2 information about their insurance. And then  
3 information is put in in different windows to  
4 provide a full history, including review of  
5 systems, detailed review of systems, to put in  
6 vital signs. We have separate windows for every  
7 portion of the neurological examination, so when I  
8 do my notes, I have a separate section for mental  
9 status, motor examination, sensory examination,  
10 reflexes, cerebellum, gait. These all have  
11 separate sections. There's a separate section for  
12 impression and discussion and that includes  
13 diagnoses. There's a separate section for plan  
14 that includes medications that are prescribed, and  
15 then when you do prescribe a medicine, it will  
16 print out below the -- below the plan and there's a  
17 section to put in copy to different referring  
18 physicians.  
19 Q. So a complete printout from a computerized  
20 electronic medical record system would then include  
21 data from all of these separate windows on one  
22 package of sheets?  
23 A. That's correct.  
24 Q. So if only one or two pages are used from

Page 695

1 that five or six-page set, it would be an  
2 incomplete record?  
3 THE MAGISTRATE: For medical purposes.  
4 For legal purposes --  
5 DR. PADMANABHAN: For medical purposes.  
6 THE MAGISTRATE: -- I ordered this.  
7 DR. PADMANABHAN: No, I know.  
8 A. I'm not sure I understand your question.  
9 Q. (DR. PADMANABHAN) If there is a six-page  
10 printout, when you order the medical record system  
11 to print out a note and six pages print out, if  
12 only one or two pages are analyzed, is that a  
13 complete record?  
14 A. You said analyzed. I'm sorry. Did you  
15 mean analyzed or printed?  
16 Q. Six pages are printed, but only two are  
17 used or presented in a hearing. Is that a complete  
18 record?  
19 THE MAGISTRATE: No, that's a legal  
20 question. Documents are incomplete because I  
21 ordered them.  
22 DR. PADMANABHAN: I understand, Your  
23 Honor.  
24 THE MAGISTRATE: Then move on with the

Page 696

1 next question.  
2 DR. PADMANABHAN: Dr. Levin has  
3 testified that I don't --  
4 THE MAGISTRATE: Dr. Padmanabhan, move  
5 on to the next question. These documents are not  
6 incomplete for purposes of the legal proceeding.  
7 DR. PADMANABHAN: Okay.  
8 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Is it your testimony,  
9 Dr. Levin, since you do possess the complete record  
10 as opposed to the evidence binder, that when you  
11 noted in all of my notes over the past three days  
12 that no drugs were noted, no allergies were noted,  
13 I do not know what prescriptions were given, I do  
14 not know how many pills were dispensed, that they  
15 were not present in the remaining four or five  
16 pages of the computerized printout?  
17 A. To the best of my knowledge, they were not.  
18 Q. So when those six pages were printed, the  
19 remaining pages were then blank?  
20 THE MAGISTRATE: No, that's not the  
21 case. Next question.  
22 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) When  
23 Magistrate Bresler asked you what Lorazepam was,  
24 you said that Lorazepam is Xanax. Is that correct?

Page 697

1 A. I did say that. It is not.  
2 Q. Do you retract that statement?  
3 A. I do.  
4 Q. Do you know the generic or chemical name  
5 for Xanax?  
6 A. I do, but I cannot think of it at the  
7 moment.  
8 Q. Do you ever prescribe Xanax?  
9 A. Rarely.  
10 Q. Do you always use the brand name?  
11 A. I rarely prescribe the medication.  
12 Q. Do you -- when you write prescriptions, do  
13 you usually use the brand name?  
14 A. No. Very frequently, I use the generic.  
15 Q. When Magistrate Bresler asked you about  
16 Patient E, you said that the patient is on both  
17 Percocet and Oxycodone and there was no indication  
18 that he was previously on Oxycodone. So this would  
19 be Patient E, MR 66. I don't know the Bates  
20 number. I apologize. I will get that.  
21 A. This is Patient E as in Edgar?  
22 Q. Bates 153, Edgar, 66. You were commenting  
23 on the statement and the impression that he will  
24 stay on the Oxycodone for now and you told

Page 698

1 Magistrate Bresler that there was no indication  
2 that he was previously on Oxycodone.  
3 **A. I don't recall the statement.**  
4 Q. Are you aware that Percocet and Oxycodone  
5 are the same?  
6 **A. No.**  
7 Q. What is the generic or chemical name for  
8 Percocet, Dr. Levin?  
9 **A. I don't know.**  
10 Q. You then stated that because the patient  
11 was prescribed Dilaudid, he was now prescribed  
12 three separate opioids. Would you retract that  
13 statement?  
14 **A. If indeed Percocet and Oxycodone are the**  
15 **same medication, and that is assuming that the**  
16 **patient had not been prescribed another opioid such**  
17 **as OxyContin, I would retract that statement.**  
18 Q. What is the difference, Dr. Levin, between  
19 Oxycodone and OxyContin?  
20 **A. I believe OxyContin is shorter-acting, but**  
21 **I'm not a hundred percent sure.**  
22 Q. Dr. Levin, you knew you were coming to  
23 testify about pain management. Would it not have  
24 been important to look those up in advance?

Page 699

1 **A. I was coming to testify about my**  
2 **impressions of the medical records that I reviewed.**  
3 Q. The medical records included the names  
4 Oxycodone, Percocet and OxyContin. Would it not  
5 have been important to look them up?  
6 **A. In the context of the records that I**  
7 **reviewed, I felt that the review that I did was**  
8 **sufficient.**  
9 Q. You testified to Magistrate Bresler that  
10 Duragesic is not a narcotic drug. What is the  
11 generic name for Duragesic?  
12 **A. I don't know.**  
13 Q. Once again, did you not feel that it was  
14 important for your review and for your testimony  
15 here to know what Duragesic is?  
16 **A. I know that Duragesic is a medicine that's**  
17 **used for pain. It's given as a patch. I believe I**  
18 **saw it as one prescription in the context of many,**  
19 **many medical records and many, many medicines**  
20 **prescribed. It did not seem to be a medicine that**  
21 **there was a concern about.**  
22 Q. Have you ever prescribed Duragesic for a  
23 patient?  
24 **A. I'm not sure.**

Page 700

1 Q. Do you have patients with cancer in your  
2 practice?  
3 **A. None that I take care of as a primary**  
4 **physician. I have patients with cancer who come to**  
5 **see me with neurological problems in addition to**  
6 **their cancer.**  
7 Q. So you have never provided end-of-life care  
8 or followed a cancer patient to the end?  
9 **A. I have never been the primary physician to**  
10 **care for a cancer patient or provide end-of-life**  
11 **care.**  
12 Q. Have you ever been part of a care team for  
13 a cancer patient in the last six months of his or  
14 her life?  
15 **A. Not in a formal sense.**  
16 Q. Have you ever prescribed fentanyl lozenges  
17 or lollipops?  
18 **A. No.**  
19 Q. You explained to Magistrate Bresler that  
20 the main indication for Botox is spasticity. This  
21 would be Patient E, MR 211, but you don't need to  
22 look at it. When did spasticity become an official  
23 FDA indication for Botox?  
24 **A. Don't know.**

Page 701

1 Q. The way you explained it to  
2 Magistrate Bresler --  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If it is.  
4 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It is.  
5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Doctor, you're not  
6 allowed to testify just yet and it's not in  
7 evidence. The question stands and there is no  
8 assumption that -- about the FDA.  
9 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** That will be the next  
10 question.  
11 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, when you  
12 indicated to Magistrate Bresler that the main  
13 indication for Botox is spasticity, what did you  
14 mean by main indication?  
15 **A. That is not -- I don't believe that's what**  
16 **I stated. I believe I stated that Botox had a**  
17 **number of indications, and I did review some of the**  
18 **indications for the use of Botox --**  
19 Q. I understand, but --  
20 **A. -- one of them being spasticity, but not**  
21 **that that was the main indication.**  
22 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Thank you. Is it  
23 possible to look up testimony from yesterday or the  
24 day before?

Page 702

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I don't know whether  
2 it's possible, but we're not going to stop to do  
3 that. You will get a transcript and if there's  
4 something you want to compare, you can bring it to  
5 my attention in the post-hearing brief.  
6 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, do you  
7 care for any patients with severe anxiety?  
8 A. **Not as a primary treating physician for  
9 their anxiety.**  
10 Q. Do you have any patients with severe  
11 anxiety?  
12 A. **Yes, sir.**  
13 Q. What does severe anxiety mean to you?  
14 A. **It's a condition where an individual feels  
15 very anxious, very nervous, and that this would be  
16 a high level, likely would be present much of the  
17 time. It would be interfering with their life.  
18 Probably has somatic symptoms along with that,  
19 maybe jitteriness, sweating, maybe other symptoms  
20 like abdominal upset that go along with that, a  
21 person who is in lay terms very, very nervous.**  
22 Q. What is the difference, Dr. Levin, in your  
23 understanding between severe anxiety and panic  
24 disorder?

Page 703

1 A. **I'm not a psychiatrist, so I don't know  
2 that I can offer you an accurate explanation of  
3 that.**  
4 Q. Excuse me one second. I'm trying to find a  
5 particular phone message.  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, do  
7 you have a next question? Maybe you can return to  
8 this when you find the phone message.  
9 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I think I will do  
10 that. Thank you.  
11 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) In the case of  
12 Patient B, did you look through the complete record  
13 in your possession to see if he indeed transferred  
14 to Dr. Gorski's care? The actual page --  
15 A. **This is B as in boy?**  
16 Q. Boy, yes. Page MR 81, Bates 71.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And while Dr. Levin is  
18 looking for that record, if you want to look for  
19 the phone message on the other patient?  
20 A. **I have record B. What was your question,  
21 sir?**  
22 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) On MR 81, Bates 71,  
23 my note states, I informed Patient B that I am  
24 transferring Patient B to Allison Gorski of

Page 704

1 Fall River for chronic pain management. Did you  
2 look through the complete record in your  
3 possession, including papers that are not  
4 referenced here, to see if he did indeed transfer  
5 to Dr. Gorski's care?  
6 A. **I did review the complete record. I don't  
7 recall whether or not the patient was transferred  
8 to Dr. Gorski's care.**  
9 Q. Wouldn't that have been important to know?  
10 A. **If you like, I can look to see if there is  
11 any record of it. I don't remember. I'm not  
12 answering your question, sir. I'm saying that I  
13 don't know whether or not the patient  
14 transferred --**  
15 Q. Thank you.  
16 A. **-- to Dr. Gorski's care.**  
17 Q. That's fine. On your board profile,  
18 Dr. Levin, it states that you work in a mental  
19 health facility.  
20 A. **No.**  
21 Q. It does. I have it here.  
22 A. **Oh, does it say that? I'm sorry. I'm not  
23 familiar with my board profile.**  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, you

Page 705

1 cannot testify until you're sworn in as a witness.  
2 Right now, you have to pose questions. You cannot  
3 make statements on what the board profile says,  
4 what the FDA says, what a regulation says. You're  
5 giving me the thumbs up, so I see you understand.  
6 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I agree. I'm new to  
7 this, Your Honor.  
8 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) When was the last  
9 time you looked up your board profile, Dr. Levin?  
10 A. **Probably a few years.**  
11 Q. Did you send information to the board  
12 yourself or did you delegate it to somebody else?  
13 A. **I would have sent it myself.**  
14 Q. Would the board substitute information that  
15 you did not send them to appear on a board website?  
16 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Sustained. Next  
18 question.  
19 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) If you did not write  
20 mental health facility, would you explain how it  
21 shows up on your profile?  
22 A. **I cannot explain it. It is incorrect.**  
23 Q. When you renew your license every two  
24 years, Dr. Levin, how do you renew it?

Page 706

1 **A. The last few times, I renewed it online.**  
2 Q. So you review your profile every two years  
3 when you go to the website, to the OLR system?  
4 **A. I renew it online. I have, I think, the**  
5 **last two times.**  
6 Q. And this note that you work in a mental  
7 health facility did not catch your eye?  
8 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection.  
9 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Overruled.  
10 **A. This is the first that I'm aware of that.**  
11 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I have a whole bunch  
12 of other questions, but maybe start tomorrow?  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** What is your best  
14 estimate as to the length of your questions?  
15 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I think about two  
16 hours more.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Is there a reason to  
18 stop now?  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It's an organization  
20 issue, Your Honor.  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'd prefer to keep  
22 going to 3:55 and then deal with scheduling and any  
23 procedural -- minor procedural issues.  
24 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Fair enough.

Page 707

1 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Return to Patient A.  
2 That would be page 35. In the impression section,  
3 I have written that he will take as many as he  
4 needs during the course of a day. He may need six  
5 or seven pills some days. I have increased his  
6 OxyContin pills to two pills four times a day,  
7 meaning eight pills a day. When you see a note  
8 following that he may need six or seven pills a  
9 day, what comes to mind when he's prescribed eight  
10 pills?  
11 **A. That he may require six, seven or eight**  
12 **pills a day.**  
13 Q. Now to page 233, Patient A.  
14 **A. 233?**  
15 Q. 233, Bates 46. You had testified on this  
16 page that there's no information on the medicine  
17 given and there is no pain agreement. Did you look  
18 for the pain agreement?  
19 **A. There is no indication of a pain agreement**  
20 **on this page. The prescription for the medication**  
21 **does give the information about OxyContin.**  
22 Q. Did you look for a pain agreement on  
23 Patient A in your records?  
24 **A. I don't remember.**

Page 708

1 Q. Page 232, the previous page, are you  
2 familiar with the concept of refill visits,  
3 Dr. Levin?  
4 **A. Yes.**  
5 Q. Since you do not prescribe Oxycodone,  
6 OxyContin, Duragesic, or any controlled pain  
7 substances, how many patients of yours have to come  
8 in once a month for a refill, a hard copy refill?  
9 **A. None.**  
10 Q. So you have no experience with what notes  
11 are kept for drug refill visits?  
12 **A. Correct.**  
13 Q. So when you said that this note is below  
14 the standard of care, would you agree that you did  
15 not know the standard of care?  
16 **A. No.**  
17 Q. You do not agree that you do not know the  
18 standard of care?  
19 **A. Correct.**  
20 Q. What is the standard of care for a refill  
21 visit?  
22 **A. I believe I've already answered that**  
23 **question, that I am not familiar with refill**  
24 **visits.**

Page 709

1 Q. How would you then know what is the  
2 standard of care for a note documenting a refill  
3 visit?  
4 **A. I would not.**  
5 Q. You rendered an opinion on this note,  
6 Dr. Levin. You said it was below the standard of  
7 care, so I need to know what standard you applied.  
8 **A. This is listed as an interdisciplinary**  
9 **progress note. I do not see anything on here**  
10 **indicating that this is a refill visit. This**  
11 **appears to be a standard visit for follow-up**  
12 **neurological care. My opinion was rendered in**  
13 **regards to the adequacy of a note for standard**  
14 **neurological care. This note is below the standard**  
15 **of care for a usual neurologic follow-up,**  
16 **especially for a patient with a pain problem. I**  
17 **cannot comment further, since there is no**  
18 **information on here indicating that this is a**  
19 **routine refill visit.**  
20 Q. Before hospitals became computerized, are  
21 you -- were you familiar with the different types  
22 of blank pages that we use to write notes on?  
23 **A. That's a very general question that I**  
24 **cannot answer.**

Page 710

1 Q. What does interdisciplinary progress note  
2 mean to you?  
3 **A. That this is a progress note and that**  
4 **different disciplines can use it; doctors can use**  
5 **it, a nurse may use it, a physical therapist, a**  
6 **speech therapist. Different medical professionals**  
7 **may use the same note.**  
8 Q. Does a note written on this piece of paper  
9 have to be a standard neurological visit?  
10 **A. A progress note should be a standard**  
11 **neurological visit unless indicated otherwise.**  
12 Q. If a respiratory therapist writes a note,  
13 would you still apply that same standard?  
14 **A. I believe your question related to you.**  
15 **I'm not testifying in regards to any other medical**  
16 **professional, indeed anyone except for you.**  
17 Q. Dr. Levin, you said you based your standard  
18 on the fact that the key words are printed on top  
19 on a blank piece of paper that is used by numerous  
20 disciplines. Does the fact that it says progress  
21 note automatically imply that anything written on  
22 this page is a progress note?  
23 **A. Yes.**  
24 Q. Are you familiar with specific papers used

Page 711

1 for refill visits?  
2 **A. No.**  
3 Q. Would you expect that they would say a  
4 refill visit on top?  
5 **A. I believe I've answered your question and I**  
6 **am not familiar with that.**  
7 Q. From your vast experience, how would you  
8 look at a note like this and differentiate between  
9 a regular follow-up office visit and a monthly  
10 refill visit?  
11 **A. I have no experience in the standard of**  
12 **care for a refill visit. This is below the**  
13 **standard of care for a neurologic follow-up visit.**  
14 Q. Would this be the standard of care for a  
15 monthly routine refill visit?  
16 **A. As already answered, I believe several**  
17 **times, I have no knowledge of the standard of care**  
18 **for a refill visit.**  
19 Q. If one were to testify that this is a  
20 monthly routine controlled substance hard copy  
21 prescription refill visit, would you revise your  
22 comment?  
23 **A. No.**  
24 Q. Why?

Page 712

1 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
2 Q. If one were to testify under oath that this  
3 was not a routine office progress note visit, but a  
4 monthly hard copy prescription refill visit, would  
5 that change your opinion?  
6 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm going to tell you.  
7 Who is testifying? Who is one who is testifying?  
8 Are you asking him to speculate if that in fact  
9 were the case?  
10 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I would be happy to  
11 testify, but the point is --  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** No, the question is  
13 are you asking him to assume that fact.  
14 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** He has already  
15 testified that different people can write different  
16 notes.  
17 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, is  
18 that the question to him?  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes.  
20 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) If this were a  
21 routine refill visit, would this meet spec?  
22 **A. Once again, I do not know what the standard**  
23 **of care is for a routine refill visit.**  
24 Q. Thank you. That's it.

Page 713

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan,  
2 before you move on, if I could ask --  
3 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Yes.  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** -- a question of  
5 Dr. Levin? If this were the note of a monthly  
6 refill visit and it did not note that, in your  
7 opinion, would it confuse -- possibly confuse  
8 another doctor?  
9 **A. Yes.**  
10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Do you have an opinion  
11 as to whether the standard of care would be to mark  
12 something that is supposed to be monthly refill  
13 note as a monthly refill note?  
14 **A. Yes.**  
15 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And your opinion is  
16 what?  
17 **A. That the notes should be -- it should**  
18 **indicate on the note to what the note is. If this**  
19 **is a refill visit and therefore the standard of**  
20 **care is different, then this should be specifically**  
21 **marked as a refill visit.**  
22 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, since you  
23 have no experience in monthly refill visits, on  
24 what experience or knowledge do you base that

Page 714

1 statement?  
2 **A. I was answering the magistrate's question.**  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** That statement was  
4 about -- not whether this is or is not a monthly  
5 refill visit, but whether it should be marked --  
6 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** If it should be  
7 marked.  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Excuse me,  
9 Dr. Padmanabhan. About whether it should be  
10 marked. That was -- you can follow up on that.  
11 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Are you familiar with  
12 refill visits that are exclusively marked by the  
13 treating physician as a routine monthly refill  
14 visit?  
15 **A. No.**  
16 Q. How many times in your career as a  
17 physician have you come across progress notes, a  
18 paper with a notation saying routine monthly refill  
19 visit?  
20 **A. I don't know.**  
21 Q. Please turn to page 70, Patient A,  
22 Bates 19.  
23 **A. What was the page?**  
24 Q. Page 70, Patient A, MR 70, Bates 19.

Page 715

1 **A. I'm sorry. Page 19 or 70?**  
2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** He's giving the Bates  
3 number as 19.  
4 **A. Oh, sorry.**  
5 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Under the heading  
6 result summary, do you see something called notes?  
7 **A. Yes.**  
8 Q. And what is written below notes?  
9 **A. Progress notes.**  
10 Q. The two sentences that follow below that  
11 heading progress notes, do they look like progress  
12 notes to you?  
13 **A. No.**  
14 Q. And yet they appear under the heading of  
15 progress notes. How would you explain that,  
16 Dr. Levin?  
17 **A. I can't explain it. I did tell you that**  
18 **there were different aspects of this particular**  
19 **medical record that I found confusing. That is one**  
20 **of them.**  
21 Q. So if a piece of paper states progress note  
22 on top, does it automatically signify that it  
23 should be a progress note?  
24 **A. I don't know. According to this medical**

Page 716

1 **record, I can't answer that question. May I**  
2 **further elaborate?**  
3 Q. No, sir. Patient B, page 137, and that  
4 would be Bates 79.  
5 **A. The page number again, please?**  
6 Q. 137. Ready?  
7 **A. Yes.**  
8 Q. You had testified that this note caused you  
9 grave concern and raised a red flag, because the  
10 patient had gone to an appointment at a pain  
11 clinic, the nurse saw him, took vitals, and then he  
12 left. He did not wait to see Dr. Hummell, because  
13 he wanted to see Dr. Gorski. Can you please  
14 explain why it raised a red flag?  
15 **A. It was unusual behavior.**  
16 Q. Why was it unusual?  
17 **A. You have referred this patient to a pain**  
18 **clinic. You were concerned about the patient**  
19 **continuing to have his medication, to have care for**  
20 **his chronic pain problem. You had referred the**  
21 **patient to a place that you considered to be a good**  
22 **place, that you thought was an appropriate**  
23 **referral. The patient agreed on that, went to the**  
24 **referral, and then decided once he got there that**

Page 717

1 **he didn't want to see the doctor, and so after the**  
2 **vital signs were taken, the patient just walked**  
3 **out. The patient just left. Any time a patient**  
4 **does that, especially a patient who is under**  
5 **controlled substances, that would raise some**  
6 **concern. Doesn't necessarily mean there is a**  
7 **problem. What he did may be perfectly reasonable,**  
8 **but it was unusual enough that it would raise a red**  
9 **flag, could be a problem.**  
10 Q. Staying on MR 137, please turn to  
11 Patient B, MR 81.  
12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And the Bates number?  
13 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** 71. Sorry.  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** 71. Thank you.  
15 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Please read the  
16 fourth sentence in my note.  
17 **A. I informed Mr. --**  
18 Q. Patient B.  
19 **A. -- that I am transferring his care to**  
20 **Dr. Allison Gorski of Fall River for chronic pain**  
21 **management.**  
22 Q. Is there anywhere in this note that I am  
23 transferring him to a certain facility?  
24 **A. No.**

Page 718

1 Q. Please turn back to MR 137. What does it  
2 say about why he left?  
3 **A. He did not -- it states he did not waited**  
4 **(sic) to see Dr. Hummell. He wants to see**  
5 **Dr. Gorski, so they booked him an appointment with**  
6 **Dr. Gorski at Fall River for 6/29/2010, and --**  
7 Q. Thank you. So when you stated that it  
8 raised a red flag because I had booked him an  
9 appointment at a facility and he went there and he  
10 left --  
11 **A. There was additional information that you**  
12 **prevented me from reading. May I read the rest of**  
13 **the sentence?**  
14 Q. No, sir.  
15 **A. The rest of the sentence answers your**  
16 **question.**  
17 Q. No, sir. When you testified that this  
18 raised a red flag because he left and walked out  
19 and you thought his behavior was very strange and  
20 worrisome for drug abuse, which is your testimony,  
21 does the fact that he had agreed to see Dr. Allison  
22 Gorski and had been booked to see a different  
23 patient change that assessment?  
24 **A. The concern over a red flag had to do with**

Page 719

1 **this entire note. What you are asking me about is**  
2 **a portion of the note, but indeed, the red flag had**  
3 **to do with the entire note.**  
4 Q. What is causing a red flag in this entire  
5 note?  
6 **A. The beginning portion that we've already**  
7 **discussed. He had an appointment at Fall River**  
8 **with Dr. Gorski, 6/29/2010, and he call and cancel**  
9 **because he stated that he was having a heart**  
10 **attack. No one at the clinic told him to go to ER.**  
11 **He said he was waiting for his son to take him. If**  
12 **you have any question, call Norwood Hospital Pain**  
13 **Management.**  
14 **This is a peculiar note. There are**  
15 **some peculiar things going on here. Everything**  
16 **that happened may have a perfectly reasonable**  
17 **explanation, and this does not indicate that the**  
18 **patient has an abuse problem, but the question of**  
19 **could this be a red flag, could this be something**  
20 **to state, perhaps we should watch this patient**  
21 **closely, maybe there is something going on in terms**  
22 **of his abuse of controlled substances, maybe not.**  
23 **A red flag does not indicate that there is a**  
24 **problem. It only indicates this is something you**

Page 720

1 **should pay attention to.**  
2 Q. What is your experience with patients who  
3 abuse drugs?  
4 **A. It's a general question. I can't answer**  
5 **it.**  
6 Q. Do you have any experience with patients  
7 who abuse drugs?  
8 **A. Yes, sir.**  
9 Q. The first half of the sentence states that  
10 he left on 6/28 because he wanted to see Dr. Gorski  
11 and he had been booked with somebody else. What  
12 does that make you think?  
13 **A. It raises a concern. If a patient has a**  
14 **significant chronic pain problem and needs to have**  
15 **chronic opioids, that in general, they're going to**  
16 **want to see any doctor or a doctor who can help**  
17 **them. It's not clear to me that you explained to**  
18 **him that the only doctor he should see is**  
19 **Dr. Gorski.**  
20 Q. Now, please turn back to page MR 81.  
21 **MR. PAIKOS:** Objection. Please. The  
22 witness was completing his sentence and his answer.  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. I think it's on  
24 the record.

Page 721

1 (Last answer read back.)  
2 **MR. PAIKOS:** I would ask that the --  
3 Dr. Levin be allowed to complete his answer. He's  
4 being interrupted in the middle of his testimony.  
5 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** The answer is not to  
6 point.  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I'm going to allow  
8 Dr. Padmanabhan to ask his next question, but  
9 first, I want to interject and put something on the  
10 record. We are looking at Bates 79. In case  
11 anybody is reading the transcript and is not  
12 looking at this exhibit, it's not written by  
13 Dr. Padmanabhan. It's for his office, but it's  
14 written by Carmen Lugo.  
15 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Please turn back to  
16 MR 81, Bates 71. It says I informed Patient B that  
17 I'm transferring his care to Dr. Allison Gorski.  
18 What does that mean to you, Dr. Levin?  
19 **A. That you are transferring his care to**  
20 **Dr. Allison Gorski for chronic pain management.**  
21 Q. Correct. Is there anywhere here that does  
22 not make it clear to you that I am transferring his  
23 care to a particular physician?  
24 **A. No.**

Page 722

1 Q. So you are clear, Dr. Levin, that I am  
2 transferring his care and I wish him to be seen by  
3 one particular physician?  
4 **A. I understand that.**  
5 Q. Thank you. Does that now cast a different  
6 light on the fact that the patient was unhappy that  
7 he was not scheduled to see Dr. Allison Gorski on  
8 the 28th?  
9 **A. It makes his response understandable.**  
10 Q. Is it also not listed in this note on  
11 MR 137 that he left after getting an appointment  
12 with Dr. Gorski?  
13 **A. Yes.**  
14 Q. Does that cause a red flag?  
15 **A. That does not.**  
16 Q. So the red flag is cancelling the clinic --  
17 the appointment the next day because he had  
18 symptoms of a heart attack. Did you check to see  
19 if he actually had a heart attack?  
20 **A. No.**  
21 Q. Have you any experience with patients with  
22 severe anxiety?  
23 **A. Yes.**  
24 Q. What symptoms do patients with severe

Page 723

1 anxiety sometimes feel?  
2 **A. There are many symptoms.**  
3 Q. Please list some.  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** We already have that,  
5 I think, on the record during your  
6 cross-examination.  
7 **A. Yes.**  
8 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** No, sir.  
9 **A. I did previously list them. I believe it**  
10 **was in answer to your question what are the**  
11 **symptoms or what happens to somebody with severe**  
12 **anxiety.**  
13 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Does severe anxiety  
14 sometimes cause chest tightness and feelings of  
15 chest pain?  
16 **A. Yes.**  
17 Q. In a patient with an existing diagnosis of  
18 severe anxiety, would symptoms of chest pain or  
19 symptoms of a heart attack or a patient feeling  
20 that he is suffering heart attack be unusual?  
21 **A. No.**  
22 Q. Would it be strange?  
23 **A. No.**  
24 Q. Would it be strange if he was waiting to be

Page 724

1 taken to the ER by his son?  
2 **A. The whole note is strange.**  
3 Q. Please explain, Dr. Gorski. Dr. Levin.  
4 **A. Once again, we have a patient who has a**  
5 **chronic pain problem who wants to get cure cared.**  
6 **You have informed the patient that you are not**  
7 **going to be caring for him any more, so you --**  
8 Q. (BY DR. PADMANABHAN) Dr. Levin, I have to  
9 stop you. Where in my note does it say that I will  
10 not be caring for him anymore?  
11 **A. I informed patient that I am transferring**  
12 **his care to Dr. Gorski.**  
13 Q. But you have reviewed the entire record,  
14 have you not?  
15 **A. This particular note states I am**  
16 **transferring the patient to Dr. Gorski for chronic**  
17 **pain meds.**  
18 Q. But you have reviewed the entire record,  
19 have you not?  
20 **A. Yes.**  
21 Q. So when you testified about page 137, you  
22 had already reviewed the entire record, had you  
23 not?  
24 **A. No.**

Page 725

1 Q. When did you review the entire record of  
2 Patient B, Dr. Levin?  
3 **A. After I completed the review after**  
4 **page 137. I read the records in chronological**  
5 **order.**  
6 Q. My question, Dr. Levin, is when did you go  
7 through the chart on Patient B.  
8 **A. I don't understand your question.**  
9 Q. Before you testified at this hearing, did  
10 you go through the entire medical record provided  
11 to you about Patient B?  
12 **A. Yes.**  
13 Q. So did you have a complete mental image  
14 about Patient B?  
15 **A. I had reviewed the records and I had**  
16 **impressions about Patient B, yes.**  
17 Q. Did you know that he had severe anxiety?  
18 **A. I don't remember.**  
19 Q. Did you recall seeing Patient B's MR  
20 number 112, Bates 74?  
21 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Dr. Padmanabhan, if  
22 you're going to be asking Dr. Levin about another  
23 document, I'm going to suggest that this is a good  
24 time to stop. It's five minutes before 4:00, and I

Page 726

1 want to turn to procedural matters.  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Okay.  
3 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So we're going to end  
4 evidence for today.  
5 We're still on the record. Is there  
6 anything quick procedurally before we talk about  
7 scheduling? I know there are discovery motions  
8 pending.  
9 **MR. PAIKOS:** Not -- I have a revised  
10 transcript of Dr. Gorski, which I believe I've  
11 given to Dr. Padmanabhan, that's redacted and has  
12 the direct and cross-examination.  
13 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** It's not Dr. Gorski.  
14 It's Warfield.  
15 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes, Dr. Warfield.  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And that is the  
17 respondent's exhibits. Remind me of the numbers.  
18 Is that one or two?  
19 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Two.  
20 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. And that's  
21 acceptable with you, Dr. Padmanabhan?  
22 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Delighted, sir.  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so I'm accepting  
24 as Respondent's Exhibit Number 2 the full

Page 727

1 transcript of the fair hearing, day three,  
2 volume three, January 24th, 2011.  
3 **MR. PAIKOS:** I don't believe it's the  
4 full. I believe it starts at the beginning of an  
5 expert, Dr. Warfield. It has something before  
6 that.  
7 **THE MAGISTRATE:** More complete than  
8 before?  
9 **MR. PAIKOS:** It has the direct and  
10 cross-examination.  
11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay.  
12 **MR. PAIKOS:** It's not the full hearing  
13 transcript.  
14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Thank you. Not the  
15 full hearing transcript. It's been accepted as an  
16 exhibit.  
17 (Respondent's Exhibit 2 admitted into  
18 evidence.)  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so  
20 Dr. Padmanabhan, your best guess is you have an  
21 hour and a half more of cross-examination for  
22 Dr. Levin?  
23 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** At least, yes.  
24 **THE MAGISTRATE:** You're -- okay. At

Page 728

1 least. What's your best estimate?  
2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I would say an hour  
3 and a half to two hours. No more than that.  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** And Mr. Paikos, you're  
5 still planning on calling how many witnesses after  
6 Dr. Levin?  
7 **MR. PAIKOS:** We are planning on calling  
8 one or two. We received a call at lunch from one  
9 of the patients, Patient H, from her husband, who  
10 left us a voicemail that she can't be in tomorrow.  
11 We reached out to him, but we haven't heard what  
12 the circumstances are.  
13 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So ideally, how many  
14 witnesses would you be calling tomorrow?  
15 **MR. PAIKOS:** We may not be calling any,  
16 because of the cancellation, or potential  
17 cancellation of this patient. I think at the most,  
18 one.  
19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Which would be  
20 Patient H?  
21 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes. Yes.  
22 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So if Patient H is  
23 available, you will be calling Patient H?  
24 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes.

Page 729

1 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If Patient H is not  
2 available, you won't be calling any witnesses?  
3 **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
4 **THE MAGISTRATE:** You're planning on --  
5 you will be resting your case in chief?  
6 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes.  
7 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Your Honor --  
8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Yes.  
9 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** -- there's a  
10 statement of allegations that I was prescribing --  
11 writing prescriptions after my Massachusetts  
12 controlled substance license registration had  
13 expired, and they were going to call Adele Audet  
14 from the DPH to testify about that, so if she is  
15 not going to testify, how will I rebut?  
16 **THE MAGISTRATE:** If they don't put in  
17 evidence about that, then they haven't proved their  
18 allegations and you have nothing to rebut.  
19 **MR. PAIKOS:** We would rely on the  
20 documents that are part of our exhibits, and in  
21 part, some of the things that Dr. Padmanabhan has  
22 submitted.  
23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So they're going to  
24 rely on documentary evidence rather than live

Page 730

1 testimony. That's what you can rebut. You can  
 2 rebut through documents. You can rebut through  
 3 your own testimony. Do you plan on testifying?  
 4 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I would hope to.  
 5 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay. How long do you  
 6 think your testimony will be?  
 7 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Whatever they ask.  
 8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Excuse me?  
 9 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Whatever they ask.  
 10 **THE MAGISTRATE:** No. You will be  
 11 deciding. It will be your -- presenting your case.  
 12 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Oh, okay. How long?  
 13 Probably 30 minutes tops.  
 14 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So will you be  
 15 prepared to testify tomorrow after the Board of  
 16 Registration in Medicine ends its case?  
 17 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I would be prepared  
 18 to testify after I present my patients.  
 19 **THE MAGISTRATE:** But the patients  
 20 aren't going to be here tomorrow.  
 21 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I could get them in  
 22 if you wish.  
 23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so -- well, in  
 24 that case, tell me how long you think it will be

Page 731

1 for your three patients.  
 2 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I would have to see  
 3 if they're available. One is certainly available.  
 4 He will be able to come, and that will be  
 5 Patient D. Patient C will not be able to come on  
 6 Friday due to babysitting issues, but he will be  
 7 available next week. And Patient I also for  
 8 babysitting issues will be available next week. I  
 9 was not aware until you informed me yesterday that  
 10 Monday is a holiday.  
 11 **THE MAGISTRATE:** So let me back up. It  
 12 looks like this appeal will be going to a hearing  
 13 on a sixth day after tomorrow. I'm looking at my  
 14 calendar and the earliest I can do is January 29th,  
 15 a Thursday. You don't have to give me an answer  
 16 now, especially if you don't have your calendars,  
 17 but Dr. Padmanabhan, if you can consult with  
 18 Patients C and I and see if they're available on  
 19 January 29th? Then I'll have to talk to the Civil  
 20 Service Commission and see if this room is  
 21 available. Okay.  
 22 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** Thank you.  
 23 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Now, back to tomorrow.  
 24 You're planning on calling Patient D?

Page 732

1 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I will do my best.  
 2 **THE MAGISTRATE:** I know you prefer to  
 3 testify after your patients, but to fill up  
 4 tomorrow, I might ask you to present your case,  
 5 your testimony, and then be subject to  
 6 cross-examination.  
 7 **DR. PADMANABHAN:** I'll try.  
 8 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Assuming this goes to  
 9 a sixth day of hearing, does the board want to call  
 10 Patient H?  
 11 **MR. PAIKOS:** Yes.  
 12 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay.  
 13 Dr. Padmanabhan, we might take direct testimony in  
 14 the board's case out of order. Depending on  
 15 Patient H availability, I might allow them to  
 16 present Patient H on January 29th or whenever the  
 17 sixth day of hearing is. Okay. Anything else for  
 18 today?  
 19 **MR. PAIKOS:** No.  
 20 **THE MAGISTRATE:** Okay, so we'll resume  
 21 at 10 o'clock tomorrow. Thank you.  
 22 (Off the record.)  
 23 (Whereupon the proceedings were  
 24 suspended for the day at 4:02 p.m.)

Page 733

1  
 2 C E R T I F I C A T E  
 3  
 4 I, Marianne R. Wharram, Certified Shorthand  
 5 Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, and  
 6 Notary Public, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
 7 transcript, Volume IV, Pages 522-732, is a true and  
 8 accurate transcription of my stenographic notes  
 9 taken on Thursday, January 15, 2015, in Boston,  
 10 Massachusetts.  
 11 Dated this 27th day of January, 2015.  
 12  
 13  
 14  
 15 Marianne R. Wharram  
 16 Certified Shorthand Reporter  
 17 CSR No. 1426S96  
 18 Registered Professional Reporter  
 19 Notary Public  
 20 My Commission Expires:  
 21 July 29, 2016  
 22  
 23  
 24

A			
<b>abbreviation (1)</b> 679:10	<b>actually (26)</b> 528:17;535:15;567:1; 569:6,9;573:22;574:23; 584:17;591:15;600:19; 608:23;610:4;615:18,19; 626:22;635:4;638:21; 642:16;643:12;646:11,21; 651:4;657:1;668:9;684:2; 722:19	<b>afternoon (2)</b> 614:20,21	702:18,20
<b>abdominal (1)</b> 702:20	<b>acute (4)</b> 533:23;542:22;543:1,7	<b>afterwards (1)</b> 545:2	<b>alternating (1)</b> 586:23
<b>abilities (1)</b> 681:12	<b>add (1)</b> 648:17	<b>against (1)</b> 669:4	<b>although (3)</b> 573:22;649:24;692:4
<b>ability (3)</b> 603:3,22;604:23	<b>Adderall (3)</b> 589:21;591:1,11	<b>age (1)</b> 694:1	<b>always (3)</b> 629:18;644:4;697:10
<b>able (12)</b> 534:22,23;601:19;613:2; 638:1;643:2;651:14;654:23; 663:24;690:6;731:4,5	<b>addict (2)</b> 630:20;631:1	<b>ago (2)</b> 652:14;653:14	<b>American (3)</b> 637:18,22;638:2
<b>abnormalities (4)</b> 583:12;641:7;649:23; 650:5	<b>addiction (6)</b> 629:1,8,19,22;630:1,10	<b>agree (11)</b> 645:12;648:10;660:8; 665:11;669:19;671:17,21; 676:14;705:6;708:14,17	<b>among (1)</b> 574:7
<b>abnormality (2)</b> 561:14;645:4	<b>addicts (1)</b> 630:19	<b>agreed (3)</b> 635:8;716:23;718:21	<b>amounts (1)</b> 596:19
<b>Above (1)</b> 537:3	<b>adding (2)</b> 587:15,17	<b>agreement (4)</b> 707:17,18,19,22	<b>ANA (1)</b> 677:23
<b>abuse (15)</b> 629:2,4,6,8;630:1,10,11, 15,18;632:9;718:20;719:18, 22;720:3,7	<b>addition (7)</b> 529:21;558:16;612:3; 644:24;650:14;692:12; 700:5	<b>alcohol (2)</b> 630:18,22	<b>analyzed (3)</b> 695:12,14,15
<b>abuses (1)</b> 633:8	<b>additional (4)</b> 610:21;638:5;650:13; 718:11	<b>allegations (19)</b> 601:23;603:1,4,15; 604:21;605:9,15,17;608:5; 610:16;611:2,7,11;612:19, 20;613:13,17;729:10,18	<b>anaphylaxis (1)</b> 533:5
<b>Academy (1)</b> 638:3	<b>address (2)</b> 693:6,24	<b>alleged (1)</b> 612:20	<b>anemia (1)</b> 534:1
<b>accept (1)</b> 629:10	<b>addressed (1)</b> 568:13	<b>allergic (4)</b> 533:5;541:6;546:1,14	<b>annual (1)</b> 657:17
<b>acceptable (1)</b> 726:21	<b>Adele (1)</b> 729:13	<b>allergies (4)</b> 690:1,1;693:2;696:12	<b>answered (4)</b> 645:17;708:22;711:5,16
<b>accepted (3)</b> 635:12;636:23;727:15	<b>adequacy (1)</b> 709:13	<b>allergy (1)</b> 690:19	<b>antibody (1)</b> 676:18
<b>accepting (3)</b> 611:10;629:15;726:23	<b>adequately (1)</b> 647:16	<b>Alliance (4)</b> 543:15,17;601:6;605:16	<b>anti-cancer (1)</b> 587:7
<b>access (1)</b> 532:19	<b>administered (2)</b> 569:20,22	<b>Allison (6)</b> 703:24;717:20;718:21; 721:17,20;722:7	<b>anticipate (1)</b> 691:20
<b>accident (1)</b> 590:14	<b>Administrative (2)</b> 526:4,10	<b>allow (20)</b> 603:6;604:4;605:22,24; 611:3;612:7,16;613:11,14; 622:4;634:6;641:17;644:16; 656:1;668:6;669:18;672:14; 680:8;721:7;732:15	<b>antidepressants (1)</b> 592:12
<b>accord (1)</b> 604:5	<b>admit (8)</b> 602:7;603:5;604:3; 608:16,21;609:7;685:14; 692:4	<b>allowed (6)</b> 607:15;608:20;614:13; 666:16;701:6;721:3	<b>anti-inflammatory (1)</b> 571:6
<b>According (4)</b> 615:13;618:8;662:4; 715:24	<b>admitted (17)</b> 598:24;599:1,15,16; 601:2,10,11;602:8,13,14; 603:10;604:14;606:3;609:2, 9;685:22;727:17	<b>almost (1)</b> 545:11	<b>anti-nausea (1)</b> 588:5
<b>account (3)</b> 545:11;593:17;594:12	<b>advance (1)</b> 698:24	<b>along (9)</b> 583:7,9;587:20;632:23; 641:11;651:20;692:19;	<b>anti-RNP (6)</b> 670:24;671:22;672:22; 673:7;674:14;675:19
<b>accurate (1)</b> 703:2	<b>advice (5)</b> 557:1,23;558:2,4;680:21		<b>anti-SM (6)</b> 675:12,23;676:4,6,17,24
<b>acknowledgement (1)</b> 626:22	<b>affect (1)</b> 554:19		<b>anxiety (11)</b> 702:7,9,11,13,23;722:22; 723:1,12,13,18;725:17
<b>acronym (2)</b> 657:3;689:20	<b>affecting (1)</b> 580:7		<b>anxious (1)</b> 702:15
<b>acronyms (1)</b> 643:3	<b>affects (1)</b> 531:8		<b>anymore (1)</b> 724:10
<b>across (4)</b> 675:12;690:3;691:13; 714:17			<b>apart (2)</b> 538:24;584:1
<b>actual (6)</b> 573:16;598:8;600:6; 609:15;639:2;703:14			<b>apologies (1)</b> 626:3
			<b>apologize (4)</b> 556:15;614:10;658:12; 697:20
			<b>apparent (1)</b> 545:4
			<b>apparently (2)</b> 570:15;571:14
			<b>appeal (3)</b>

526:6;605:19;731:12 <b>Appeals (1)</b> 526:4 <b>appear (11)</b> 585:12;589:19;592:7; 605:14,16;659:1;662:4; 679:13;691:11;705:15; 715:14 <b>appearance (1)</b> 656:12 <b>appearing (1)</b> 544:17 <b>appears (10)</b> 538:21,23;539:2;542:22; 543:9,9;553:11;575:9; 590:4;709:11 <b>apple (1)</b> 625:16 <b>applied (1)</b> 709:7 <b>apply (1)</b> 710:13 <b>appointment (6)</b> 716:10;718:5,9;719:7; 722:11,17 <b>appropriate (6)</b> 583:21;617:24;638:18,20; 651:23;716:22 <b>approved (1)</b> 556:22 <b>approximately (7)</b> 536:23;595:20;614:24; 617:1;636:8,15,15 <b>April (8)</b> 527:4;535:9,14;536:24; 537:18;539:20;544:9; 594:14 <b>area (4)</b> 570:1;649:21;658:5; 673:21 <b>areas (3)</b> 654:10;658:3,6 <b>argue (11)</b> 598:22;600:13;603:7; 604:4;605:4;608:7,12; 613:8;660:7;687:21,21 <b>around (1)</b> 558:18 <b>arrive (1)</b> 620:20 <b>art (1)</b> 657:7 <b>arthritis (1)</b> 554:8 <b>article (6)</b> 532:12;663:24;664:2,3, 10,11 <b>articles (4)</b> 615:11;638:7,11;664:8 <b>articular (1)</b> 555:14 <b>aseptic (1)</b> 549:4	<b>Ashburton (1)</b> 526:5 <b>aside (2)</b> 572:24;611:11 <b>asleep (1)</b> 530:16 <b>aspects (2)</b> 650:13;715:18 <b>assess (4)</b> 527:3;547:20;551:9; 570:19 <b>Assessment (13)</b> 527:20;528:3;545:5; 546:15;550:2;552:23;569:4; 573:12;586:14;593:14; 594:1;689:6;718:23 <b>association (2)</b> 661:20,21 <b>assume (12)</b> 530:2;536:11,15;540:2,4, 22;551:16;563:17;597:2; 602:11;675:21;712:13 <b>assuming (8)</b> 537:4;539:23;541:8; 572:3;575:22,24;698:15; 732:8 <b>assumption (3)</b> 571:8;673:3;701:8 <b>attachment (1)</b> 599:21 <b>attachments (3)</b> 598:14;599:10;600:1 <b>attack (7)</b> 553:24;554:2;719:10; 722:18,19;723:19,20 <b>attacks (1)</b> 533:9 <b>attended (1)</b> 636:7 <b>attention (18)</b> 533:21;535:10;590:23; 591:2;653:20;679:19,23; 681:3,4;682:7,8,11;684:7, 10;688:6;689:7;702:5;720:1 <b>attorney (1)</b> 678:23 <b>Aubercach's (1)</b> 607:19 <b>Audet (1)</b> 729:13 <b>auditory (1)</b> 649:11 <b>Auerbach (3)</b> 606:13,17;607:21 <b>August (5)</b> 576:18,18,22,24;577:3 <b>authority (1)</b> 633:16 <b>autoimmune (21)</b> 553:17,19,21,21;554:3,4, 5,6,8,9,15,18,20,22;555:1,2, 5,12,15,23;556:2 <b>automatically (4)</b>	620:19;631:14;710:21; 715:22 <b>availability (1)</b> 732:15 <b>available (10)</b> 636:14,20;728:23;729:2; 731:3,3,7,8,18,21 <b>average (4)</b> 620:2,19,23;621:1 <b>avoid (3)</b> 598:7,8,9 <b>aware (18)</b> 534:21;535:3;618:14,17, 22;619:4;621:4;624:10; 631:21;653:23;656:23; 657:3;662:6;669:13;681:24; 698:4;706:10;731:9 <b>away (1)</b> 574:17	592:4,21;621:9,10;622:18; 623:3,13;625:17,18;626:1,4, 6;634:9;643:8,9,22;658:9, 12;674:12;681:21;683:12; 685:15,16,16,18;687:1,7; 697:19,22;703:16,22; 707:15;714:22,24;715:2; 716:4;717:12;721:10,16; 725:20 <b>became (6)</b> 636:13,20;648:8;683:14; 692:16;709:20 <b>become (2)</b> 682:3;700:22 <b>begin (1)</b> 614:15 <b>beginning (2)</b> 719:6;727:4 <b>begun (1)</b> 628:5 <b>behavior (2)</b> 716:15;718:19 <b>behind (1)</b> 594:10 <b>Bell's (1)</b> 554:21 <b>below (43)</b> 527:5,17;540:15;542:9; 546:7,10;550:19;551:4; 552:2;558:5,8,13,19;560:22; 563:16;567:13;568:6; 569:16;570:12;571:2; 572:19;577:12;578:13; 584:2,20;586:3,9,24;587:4, 22;593:2;620:14;671:22; 676:18,22;694:16,16; 708:13;709:6,14;711:12; 715:8,10 <b>Benadryl (1)</b> 538:13 <b>beneficial (1)</b> 535:21 <b>benefit (7)</b> 645:18;655:21;656:2,6, 11,11,20 <b>benefited (2)</b> 552:6,11 <b>besides (1)</b> 581:7 <b>best (7)</b> 620:24;647:23;696:17; 706:13;727:20;728:1;732:1 <b>better (17)</b> 528:5,11;535:21;561:16; 578:1,5;581:12;582:4,7; 660:24,24;661:12,13,23,23, 24;662:1 <b>beyond (1)</b> 605:18 <b>Bharanidharan (1)</b> 526:9 <b>bilateral (1)</b> 586:8
<b>B</b>			
	<b>babysitting (2)</b> 731:6,8 <b>back (35)</b> 530:21;534:7;536:22; 547:7;548:6,8;558:21; 563:14,18;585:1;594:18; 596:5;598:10;607:6,8,10; 614:9,11;621:21;623:24; 628:9;650:1;655:21;659:8; 666:4;667:8;674:6;683:9, 20;718:1;720:20;721:1,15; 731:11,23 <b>background (3)</b> 601:22;641:13;673:3 <b>balance (1)</b> 662:1 <b>base (2)</b> 640:3;713:24 <b>based (6)</b> 628:1;659:3,5;661:21; 685:3;710:17 <b>basic (9)</b> 563:10;673:16,19;680:16, 17;693:5,6,23;694:1 <b>Basis (15)</b> 559:8;582:11;594:5; 619:21;620:15;627:10; 628:2;637:6,7;655:17; 657:14,17;669:3;682:5; 691:1 <b>Bates (86)</b> 526:24;535:11;537:19,22; 538:1;539:5,13,15,16,17; 544:8;548:18;549:23;551:8; 555:8;556:7,10,12,16;559:3, 21;560:5;564:9;565:4; 566:7,8;568:3;570:19; 572:24;574:17;576:7,12,20; 577:10;580:23;582:9; 584:13,15,18;589:15,17; 590:13,21;591:16,17,18;	<b>behind (1)</b> 594:10 <b>Bell's (1)</b> 554:21 <b>below (43)</b> 527:5,17;540:15;542:9; 546:7,10;550:19;551:4; 552:2;558:5,8,13,19;560:22; 563:16;567:13;568:6; 569:16;570:12;571:2; 572:19;577:12;578:13; 584:2,20;586:3,9,24;587:4, 22;593:2;620:14;671:22; 676:18,22;694:16,16; 708:13;709:6,14;711:12; 715:8,10 <b>Benadryl (1)</b> 538:13 <b>beneficial (1)</b> 535:21 <b>benefit (7)</b> 645:18;655:21;656:2,6, 11,11,20 <b>benefited (2)</b> 552:6,11 <b>besides (1)</b> 581:7 <b>best (7)</b> 620:24;647:23;696:17; 706:13;727:20;728:1;732:1 <b>better (17)</b> 528:5,11;535:21;561:16; 578:1,5;581:12;582:4,7; 660:24,24;661:12,13,23,23, 24;662:1 <b>beyond (1)</b> 605:18 <b>Bharanidharan (1)</b> 526:9 <b>bilateral (1)</b> 586:8	

<p><b>binder (4)</b> 663:17;673:5;683:16; 696:10</p> <p><b>bit (6)</b> 528:5,11;562:7;594:9; 595:12;608:2</p> <p><b>bizarre (1)</b> 633:22</p> <p><b>black (1)</b> 654:8</p> <p><b>bladder (1)</b> 587:13</p> <p><b>blank (3)</b> 696:19;709:22;710:19</p> <p><b>Blood (7)</b> 529:11,13,15,16,22;534:2; 674:13</p> <p><b>Board (41)</b> 526:8;599:5,13,19; 612:10,12,16;613:6,9,22; 614:2;615:17,19,22,24; 616:1,3,19,20;618:8,24; 628:13;631:21;635:8,9,15, 22;642:17;665:14;666:13; 673:19;678:13;704:17,23; 705:3,9,11,14,15;730:15; 732:9</p> <p><b>boards (5)</b> 615:16;616:2,7,7,12</p> <p><b>board's (2)</b> 607:4;732:14</p> <p><b>body (9)</b> 545:11;553:23,24;554:1; 570:2;584:24;585:15,17; 593:5</p> <p><b>booked (4)</b> 718:5,8,22;720:11</p> <p><b>Boston (1)</b> 526:6</p> <p><b>both (7)</b> 572:2;578:9;586:24; 591:5;596:13;606:14; 697:16</p> <p><b>Botox (24)</b> 561:2,19;562:4;566:6,17, 23;567:5,8,14;569:17,18,19, 19,21,22,23,24;571:14; 579:1;700:20,23;701:13,16, 18</p> <p><b>Botox-A (1)</b> 566:24</p> <p><b>bottom (5)</b> 538:15,19;551:14;557:20; 685:18</p> <p><b>box (1)</b> 690:19</p> <p><b>boy (3)</b> 623:21;703:15,16</p> <p><b>brain (8)</b> 576:14;585:7;586:20; 593:13;639:5;649:11;650:2, 3</p> <p><b>branch (1)</b></p>	<p>615:14</p> <p><b>brand (2)</b> 697:10,13</p> <p><b>break (8)</b> 580:20;584:9;597:4,16; 612:21;683:1,6;685:10</p> <p><b>breakdown (1)</b> 534:2</p> <p><b>Brecht's (2)</b> 650:22,24</p> <p><b>Bresler (33)</b> 526:10;619:22;620:16; 633:20;642:21;646:5,20; 651:18;652:7,10,19;660:1, 20;661:14;662:10;667:3,5; 670:23;674:11;675:11,24; 681:2;684:5;687:3,10; 689:19;696:23;697:15; 698:1;699:9;700:19;701:2, 12</p> <p><b>Bresler's (1)</b> 643:13</p> <p><b>Brian (1)</b> 601:15</p> <p><b>brief (3)</b> 552:5;571:4;702:5</p> <p><b>briefly (4)</b> 557:12,15;558:3;576:11</p> <p><b>Brigham (4)</b> 669:1,15,20;672:21</p> <p><b>bring (5)</b> 559:22;575:8;688:6; 689:6;702:4</p> <p><b>broken (1)</b> 568:20</p> <p><b>brought (1)</b> 605:10</p> <p><b>B's (1)</b> 725:19</p> <p><b>bulk (1)</b> 598:8</p> <p><b>bunch (1)</b> 706:11</p>	<p><b>calls (2)</b> 600:8,18</p> <p><b>Cambridge (5)</b> 543:15,16;601:6;602:1; 605:15</p> <p><b>came (21)</b> 527:8;542:12;557:14; 561:1;565:4;582:18,21; 584:1,23;593:23;606:23; 619:5;621:18;634:10;648:8; 668:2;669:10,12;670:24; 675:12;691:13</p> <p><b>cameras (1)</b> 614:13</p> <p><b>Can (88)</b> 527:3;529:1;530:17; 532:3;533:4,6,8,23,24; 534:3;536:8;538:3;545:24; 552:18;559:15,22;561:3; 562:8;563:18;574:8;580:23; 590:22;592:13,21;608:19, 20;609:21,24;610:13;611:3; 613:5,8,14;616:9;622:11,15, 17,18;627:13,16,21;628:16; 632:15,23;633:4,10,14; 636:15;642:23;643:1; 648:14,17;650:16,18;652:9; 653:6,17,19,21;654:5,6,9,9, 20;659:19;660:12,14; 661:15;662:12;665:4; 677:11;688:17;689:6;702:4; 703:2,7;704:10;710:4,4; 712:15;714:10;716:13; 720:16;730:1,1,2;731:14,17</p> <p><b>cancel (1)</b> 719:8</p> <p><b>cancellation (2)</b> 728:16,17</p> <p><b>cancelling (1)</b> 722:16</p> <p><b>cancer (11)</b> 667:4,6;668:3,18,21; 700:1,4,6,8,10,13</p> <p><b>cancers (1)</b> 587:14</p> <p><b>capacity (2)</b> 629:6;630:9</p> <p><b>car (1)</b> 590:14</p> <p><b>care (134)</b> 527:3,5,5,18;533:2;534:9; 539:20,21;540:13,15,16; 546:8,10;550:19;551:5,10; 552:2;556:24;557:1,23,24; 558:4,5,6,6,8,13,19;560:23; 562:15,20;563:1,3,7,16; 565:19;566:18;567:3,5,7,14, 15;568:6,24;569:3,16,20; 570:12,20;571:2,19;572:10, 20;573:13;577:12;578:13, 22;581:14;583:19;584:2,17, 20;586:4,10;587:1,5,23; 588:18;593:2,19;602:19;</p>	<p>605:18,23;610:24,24; 611:14,16,18,19,19;612:1,5, 15,15,18;616:22;617:14; 620:15;632:9,17,21;670:1; 671:19,23;676:11,19,22; 677:2;678:13;680:21; 687:13;700:3,7,10,11,12; 702:7;703:14;704:5,8,16; 708:14,15,18,20;709:2,7,12, 14,15;711:12,13,14,17; 712:23;713:11,20;716:19; 717:19;721:17,19,23;722:2; 724:12</p> <p><b>cared (1)</b> 724:5</p> <p><b>career (1)</b> 714:16</p> <p><b>Careful (3)</b> 533:1;572:11;677:20</p> <p><b>caring (2)</b> 724:7,10</p> <p><b>Carmen (1)</b> 721:14</p> <p><b>carriers (1)</b> 636:23</p> <p><b>Carry (2)</b> 617:5,10</p> <p><b>case (23)</b> 542:22;547:19;551:22; 559:16,23;607:16;608:3; 612:11;613:20,23;633:18; 662:24;688:17;696:21; 703:11;712:9;721:10;729:5; 730:11,16,24;732:4,14</p> <p><b>cases (3)</b> 544:23;604:24;637:11</p> <p><b>cast (1)</b> 722:5</p> <p><b>catch (1)</b> 706:7</p> <p><b>catches (1)</b> 682:11</p> <p><b>catching (1)</b> 658:2</p> <p><b>category (2)</b> 554:17;592:11</p> <p><b>caught (4)</b> 682:7,8;684:7,10</p> <p><b>causal (1)</b> 662:2</p> <p><b>cause (6)</b> 574:8;583:13;642:8; 671:15;722:14;723:14</p> <p><b>caused (2)</b> 582:22;716:8</p> <p><b>causes (3)</b> 531:10,16;661:1</p> <p><b>causing (3)</b> 572:16;582:15;719:4</p> <p><b>CD (1)</b> 640:6</p> <p><b>CD's (1)</b> 588:11</p>
	<b>C</b>		
<p><b>calendar (1)</b> 731:14</p> <p><b>calendars (2)</b> 614:3;731:16</p> <p><b>call (10)</b> 534:24;561:20;583:19; 630:19,24;719:8,12;728:8; 729:13;732:9</p> <p><b>called (7)</b> 531:8,12,16;629:2;646:8; 664:6;715:6</p> <p><b>calling (10)</b> 609:18;610:15,23;728:5, 7,14,15,23;729:2;731:24</p> <p><b>callosum (10)</b> 643:16;644:3,5,10,11,19, 20,22;645:7;646:1</p>			

<b>CellCept (10)</b> 667:4,5,7,9,19;668:3,17, 21;669:1;670:3	5;684:5	641:19	<b>complexity (2)</b> 569:3;571:17
<b>Center (5)</b> 543:15,15;669:2,15,21	<b>chose (5)</b> 611:10;667:1;683:18,19; 684:6	<b>Collora (1)</b> 601:15	<b>compliance (1)</b> 609:14
<b>central (1)</b> 654:11	<b>chosen (2)</b> 611:7;616:18	<b>com- (1)</b> 562:20	<b>complications (4)</b> 533:8,23;534:1,4
<b>Centricity (3)</b> 691:3;693:17,21	<b>chronic (25)</b> 531:12,14;550:7;551:2; 554:23;577:19;617:11,13, 15,16,17,21;631:10,12,13, 18;632:6;704:1;716:20; 717:20;720:14,15;721:20; 724:5,16	<b>comfortable (3)</b> 670:8,15,20	<b>comply (6)</b> 562:24;563:1,2,6,7; 581:13
<b>cerebellum (1)</b> 694:10	<b>chronological (1)</b> 725:4	<b>coming (7)</b> 557:12;577:15;582:10; 624:23;667:19;698:22; 699:1	<b>comport (1)</b> 562:20
<b>certain (4)</b> 596:5;608:10;613:24; 717:23	<b>CIDP (1)</b> 531:12	<b>comment (20)</b> 527:21;557:9,11;580:23; 585:18,21,23;607:24; 633:14;634:12;661:6,11; 663:20,21;683:13;686:9,14; 691:22;709:17;711:22	<b>computer (2)</b> 556:16;693:5
<b>Certainly (3)</b> 600:14;620:13;731:3	<b>circumstance (1)</b> 642:5	<b>commentary (1)</b> 688:3	<b>computerized (5)</b> 691:13;692:3;694:19; 696:16;709:20
<b>cervical (14)</b> 561:2,4,7,13,23;562:5; 566:6;569:4,7,10,15;579:14, 16;585:19	<b>circumstances (3)</b> 639:19,23;728:12	<b>commenting (3)</b> 585:5;661:5;697:22	<b>con- (1)</b> 608:6
<b>CFR (7)</b> 619:23;620:18;622:1; 623:7,24;627:10,15	<b>Civil (2)</b> 526:5;731:19	<b>Comments (1)</b> 615:9	<b>concept (3)</b> 662:6,8;708:2
<b>chairman (1)</b> 615:13	<b>clarification (3)</b> 573:9;612:24;657:11	<b>Commission (2)</b> 526:5;731:20	<b>concern (7)</b> 529:20;581:19;699:21; 716:9;717:6;718:24;720:13
<b>change (7)</b> 567:7,10;573:12;585:11; 594:1;712:5;718:23	<b>clarify (4)</b> 551:11;613:5;679:17; 689:16	<b>committee (4)</b> 599:6;600:4,8,12	<b>concerned (4)</b> 554:7;639:14,15;716:18
<b>changed (1)</b> 538:24	<b>clear (5)</b> 579:24;663:2;720:17; 721:22;722:1	<b>committing (1)</b> 605:23	<b>concerning (1)</b> 550:12
<b>changes (10)</b> 641:8,9;645:2;649:2; 651:20;652:9,20;677:12,21, 21	<b>clinic (9)</b> 631:9,15,19;671:6,8; 716:11,18;719:10;722:16	<b>common (4)</b> 549:5,16;550:11;554:20	<b>concerns (1)</b> 552:20
<b>changing (1)</b> 527:24	<b>clinical (19)</b> 546:12;552:10,23;558:17; 567:4;568:15,21,22;596:16; 641:2,4;650:14;656:24; 660:18;677:18,19;680:1,13, 17	<b>commonly (2)</b> 546:24;588:24	<b>concluded (2)</b> 547:23;548:4
<b>chapter (4)</b> 616:16;619:17,24;624:3	<b>close (1)</b> 719:21	<b>Commonwealth (1)</b> 618:12	<b>conclusion (4)</b> 620:20;621:19;623:8,23
<b>characteristics (1)</b> 583:8	<b>clubs (1)</b> 655:16	<b>community (2)</b> 611:16,19	<b>conclusions (1)</b> 624:1
<b>chart (5)</b> 569:8;624:20;689:17; 690:11;725:7	<b>CME (3)</b> 618:11;619:13;621:5	<b>compare (1)</b> 702:4	<b>condition (10)</b> 531:8,15,16;536:7,14; 554:4;561:24;630:14; 662:15;702:14
<b>charts (4)</b> 615:1;690:16;692:14,15	<b>CME's (1)</b> 621:4	<b>compared (1)</b> 607:21	<b>conditions (12)</b> 531:18,19;534:6;536:6; 546:24;554:21;592:13; 594:6;671:5,11;676:15; 681:9
<b>check (2)</b> 643:12;722:18	<b>CNS (10)</b> 537:6,10;558:9;569:13; 578:17;586:14;587:18; 593:17;594:2,12	<b>complaints (6)</b> 545:16;547:12;572:8,9; 599:6;600:8	<b>conference (2)</b> 655:4;687:23
<b>checking (3)</b> 659:10,14,15	<b>coalesce (1)</b> 550:1	<b>complete (16)</b> 568:23;569:21,22;596:10, 13;619:13;694:19;695:13, 17;696:9;703:12;704:2,6; 721:3;725:13;727:7	<b>conferences (1)</b> 637:3
<b>chemical (2)</b> 697:4;698:7	<b>cocaine (1)</b> 633:9	<b>completed (2)</b> 618:11;725:3	<b>confirm (4)</b> 534:13;539:22;650:7; 652:22
<b>chemotherapy (5)</b> 667:4,6;668:3,18,21	<b>Code (2)</b> 624:6,11	<b>completely (1)</b> 660:3	<b>confuse (2)</b> 713:7,7
<b>chest (3)</b> 723:14,15,18	<b>colleague (1)</b> 616:19	<b>completes (1)</b> 613:23	<b>confused (2)</b> 590:1;620:13
<b>chief (2)</b> 606:23;729:5	<b>colleagues (2)</b> 637:6,10	<b>completing (1)</b> 720:22	<b>confuses (1)</b> 620:19
<b>chloral (1)</b> 528:15	<b>collecting (1)</b>	<b>complex (2)</b> 541:10;604:24	<b>confusing (2)</b> 620:23;715:19
<b>choice (1)</b> 666:23			<b>confusion (2)</b> 598:9;692:5
<b>choose (6)</b> 665:21,23;666:16;682:2,			<b>conjunction (2)</b> 539:14;540:11

<b>connected (1)</b> 604:10	662:19	538:13,18	623:19;687:2,3,6;689:17
<b>connection (1)</b> 591:6	<b>control (1)</b> 624:12	<b>cross-examination (12)</b> 559:17;597:11;608:19; 614:16,19;672:13;679:3; 723:6;726:12;727:10,21; 732:6	<b>Dawson's (12)</b> 606:18;641:24;643:17; 644:4,4,9,21,24;645:3,8; 646:2;667:2
<b>connective (2)</b> 593:15;594:8	<b>controlled (10)</b> 627:7,21;628:3,11,14; 708:6;711:20;717:5;719:22; 729:12	<b>cross-out (2)</b> 538:8,15	<b>day (24)</b> 530:15;537:18;539:5; 555:24;557:16,24;573:6; 576:15;591:24;592:2;640:8; 693:18;701:24;707:4,6,7,9, 12;722:17;727:1;731:13; 732:9,17,24
<b>consecutive (1)</b> 681:22	<b>convinced (3)</b> 586:20;605:6,8	<b>CT (1)</b> 636:12	<b>days (8)</b> 528:14;530:4;561:16; 632:20;634:10;635:1; 696:11;707:5
<b>consider (6)</b> 642:10;666:6,12;672:19; 673:10,15	<b>copied (1)</b> 596:4	<b>cupping (1)</b> 586:8	<b>DEA (4)</b> 624:7,11,15,17
<b>consideration (1)</b> 613:16	<b>copy (8)</b> 609:24;622:15;665:18; 685:12;694:17;708:8; 711:20;712:4	<b>cure (1)</b> 724:5	<b>deal (2)</b> 639:9;706:22
<b>considered (5)</b> 592:19;632:3;667:21; 678:12;716:21	<b>cord (1)</b> 531:10	<b>current (1)</b> 577:15	<b>dealing (1)</b> 632:5
<b>considering (1)</b> 545:23	<b>corpus (10)</b> 643:16;644:3,5,10,10,18, 20,22;645:7;646:1	<b>currently (7)</b> 531:23;551:19;598:21; 600:12;605:3;608:13; 621:20	<b>deals (1)</b> 602:1
<b>consistent (4)</b> 641:5,9;649:3;672:20	<b>correctly (6)</b> 533:12,15;564:23;621:20; 640:18;679:7	<b>CV (7)</b> 602:11;615:5,13,18; 657:20;669:7,10	<b>December (3)</b> 596:12;598:16;621:17
<b>Consortium (1)</b> 638:14	<b>corroborate (1)</b> 583:11	<b>cycle (1)</b> 530:17	<b>decide (4)</b> 540:23;610:6;624:24; 679:22
<b>consult (3)</b> 555:3;690:17;731:17	<b>count (1)</b> 615:17	<b>cycles (1)</b> 550:17	<b>decided (1)</b> 716:24
<b>consultation (3)</b> 629:6;637:9;677:24	<b>counter (1)</b> 591:12	<b>cyclophosphamide (5)</b> 587:3,5;595:1;670:6,10	<b>deciding (5)</b> 547:2;613:16;639:21; 657:1;730:11
<b>contact (1)</b> 535:5	<b>couple (4)</b> 531:7;533:22;561:16; 596:6	<b>Cymbalta (4)</b> 592:7,10,11,16	<b>decision (5)</b> 587:3;612:17;633:20; 683:24;686:13
<b>contacted (1)</b> 637:14	<b>course (7)</b> 589:4;595:19;607:7; 621:5;639:23;660:18;707:4	<b>D</b>	<b>declared (2)</b> 631:22;660:22
<b>contain (3)</b> 680:1,13;690:19	<b>courses (2)</b> 619:13;636:8	<b>daclizumab (2)</b> 670:18,21	<b>decrease (1)</b> 568:10
<b>contained (3)</b> 680:14,16;693:1	<b>Court (3)</b> 631:23;634:6;651:14	<b>daily (1)</b> 691:1	<b>definition (1)</b> 663:3
<b>contemporaneous (1)</b> 611:6	<b>cover (4)</b> 599:10,11,18;610:18	<b>Darin (2)</b> 657:10,12	<b>definitively (1)</b> 691:22
<b>contend (1)</b> 688:15	<b>covered (1)</b> 673:21	<b>data (12)</b> 649:1,4;680:17;688:22, 22;693:7,13,14,20,22,23; 694:21	<b>degree (1)</b> 608:12
<b>contending (1)</b> 688:20	<b>credentials (1)</b> 669:5	<b>date (41)</b> 527:4;532:10,13;538:24; 539:23,24;544:9;548:9,13; 551:13,17,17;557:21; 558:18;559:4,10,15,19,22; 560:17;573:2;582:9;589:20; 590:2,3;591:20;621:16; 622:23,24;623:16;626:10; 627:4;634:14;636:16,21,22; 659:17;667:20;668:1,17; 670:1	<b>delay (1)</b> 613:24
<b>content (1)</b> 688:21	<b>credibility (3)</b> 607:18,20;666:13	<b>dated (5)</b> 556:18;598:18;599:4,19; 601:16	<b>delayed (1)</b> 527:21
<b>contents (1)</b> 599:12	<b>credible (1)</b> 673:10	<b>dates (9)</b> 551:22;559:9;590:2; 596:11,14;611:21;628:21; 635:3;692:10	<b>delegate (1)</b> 705:12
<b>context (5)</b> 544:16;608:11;675:16; 699:6,18	<b>criteria (64)</b> 546:13;639:2;646:8,9,10, 13,15,17,17,19,22;647:6,7,9, 10,14,19,20,22,23,24;648:7, 8,12,13,14,17,18,21,22; 649:1,4,5;650:11,14,15,22, 24;651:3,12,15,16,19;652:1, 10,15,17;653:2,4,6,14,23; 654:1;663:18,21,22,23; 664:2,6,20,21;665:2,6; 669:24	<b>David (5)</b>	<b>Delighted (1)</b> 726:22
<b>continue (12)</b> 534:23;552:16;553:3; 570:6;572:2;578:24;593:22; 625:1;632:15;644:16; 680:10,11	<b>criterion (1)</b> 547:2		<b>demonstrate (3)</b> 603:6;610:23;613:12
<b>continued (3)</b> 595:1;618:12;680:19	<b>crossed (2)</b>		<b>demyelinating (3)</b> 531:13;554:24;639:17
<b>continues (1)</b> 570:23			<b>department (1)</b> 639:18
<b>continuing (1)</b> 716:19			<b>depend (4)</b> 640:10,13,17,24
<b>contradictory (1)</b> 660:3			
<b>contrast-enhanced (1)</b> 654:9			
<b>contributing (1)</b>			

<p><b>Depending (1)</b> 732:14</p> <p><b>depends (2)</b> 642:3;663:10</p> <p><b>depression (1)</b> 592:13</p> <p><b>derive (1)</b> 655:6</p> <p><b>descending (1)</b> 531:10</p> <p><b>describe (1)</b> 631:1</p> <p><b>described (9)</b> 527:23;540:20;552:24; 569:1;571:21;578:16; 586:11,16;652:14</p> <p><b>describes (8)</b> 547:11;557:4;585:18; 586:21;630:13;644:20; 664:4,4</p> <p><b>describing (3)</b> 583:7;585:15;630:21</p> <p><b>designed (2)</b> 654:14;655:14</p> <p><b>detail (1)</b> 570:2</p> <p><b>detailed (2)</b> 612:19;694:5</p> <p><b>details (2)</b> 527:13;581:7</p> <p><b>detrimental (1)</b> 535:2</p> <p><b>develop (1)</b> 531:11</p> <p><b>devices (3)</b> 526:13;614:12,13</p> <p><b>DG (2)</b> 537:6,15</p> <p><b>diabetes (5)</b> 662:17,18;663:9,12,15</p> <p><b>diagnose (7)</b> 604:23;640:20;642:8,8; 652:9,21;653:4</p> <p><b>diagnosed (5)</b> 555:19;646:6;652:18; 674:22;675:2</p> <p><b>diagnoses (12)</b> 527:24;528:4;541:5; 552:9;578:18;585:18; 594:17;595:16,21;596:2,7; 694:13</p> <p><b>diagnosing (7)</b> 594:2,7;607:17;647:24; 652:2;653:6,7</p> <p><b>diagnosis (47)</b> 528:2;537:16;541:13; 546:6,17,17;553:7;555:17; 558:9,10,14,15;561:4; 568:14;569:10,11;571:12, 22;572:16;577:22;578:20; 586:15;587:1,18;594:7; 595:24;596:8;606:16;617:2, 4,5,11,17;639:16;640:1,8;</p>	<p>641:2,5;647:13;648:2; 649:3;660:12,14;675:18; 676:10,13;723:17</p> <p><b>diagram (8)</b> 563:8,9;564:20,22; 567:17,17,18,23</p> <p><b>diagrams (3)</b> 563:20,22;567:19</p> <p><b>difference (9)</b> 638:2;646:16;647:6; 648:20,24;651:15;664:19; 698:18;702:22</p> <p><b>different (47)</b> 527:23;529:5;531:4; 536:6;537:7;538:18,21; 542:6;546:20;548:2;553:12; 555:18,22;559:9;575:10; 579:14;585:20,20;595:6,21; 596:2,3;619:7;623:10; 636:22;650:8,9,16;654:5,10; 658:3,6;691:11,17;693:22, 23;694:3,17;709:21;710:4, 6;712:15,15;713:20;715:18; 718:22;722:5</p> <p><b>differentiate (1)</b> 711:8</p> <p><b>difficult (4)</b> 536:5;580:11;594:9;692:6</p> <p><b>difficulties (1)</b> 630:16</p> <p><b>difficultly (1)</b> 532:14</p> <p><b>Dilaudid (1)</b> 698:11</p> <p><b>DIRECT (8)</b> 526:22;535:9;563:18; 570:21;643:18;726:12; 727:9;732:13</p> <p><b>directed (1)</b> 623:10</p> <p><b>directions (1)</b> 623:3</p> <p><b>directly (1)</b> 676:13</p> <p><b>director (1)</b> 598:16</p> <p><b>directors (1)</b> 616:3</p> <p><b>disagree (1)</b> 689:5</p> <p><b>disciplinary (1)</b> 614:23</p> <p><b>discipline (4)</b> 612:11,13;613:7,10</p> <p><b>disciplines (2)</b> 710:4,20</p> <p><b>discomfort (1)</b> 547:13</p> <p><b>discontinued (1)</b> 535:6</p> <p><b>discovery (2)</b> 688:15;726:7</p> <p><b>discuss (7)</b></p>	<p>552:5;584:23;590:14; 637:6;655:18;668:22; 685:10</p> <p><b>discussed (17)</b> 527:19;532:13;541:2; 553:22;555:4;557:6;558:8, 12;561:21;628:14;633:18; 646:11;648:1;664:11; 683:13;684:23;719:7</p> <p><b>discusses (1)</b> 565:1</p> <p><b>discussing (9)</b> 539:5;562:8;564:16; 569:13;570:3;637:11;653:1, 2;688:21</p> <p><b>discussion (15)</b> 540:24;545:5;552:15; 571:5,10;577:15;584:22; 585:7,16;587:2;589:12; 607:20;628:12;651:24; 694:12</p> <p><b>discussions (2)</b> 608:8;678:23</p> <p><b>disease (21)</b> 537:7,11;554:4;555:14; 558:10,12;574:9;593:16,21; 594:9;595:11,14;639:17; 660:16,20;662:7,11,18,20; 663:3,15</p> <p><b>diseases (3)</b> 650:6,9;671:14</p> <p><b>disfavor (1)</b> 620:7</p> <p><b>disorder (15)</b> 548:1;553:17,20;554:4,5, 7,20,22;555:16;556:2; 674:19,21;675:22;676:8; 702:24</p> <p><b>disorders (17)</b> 531:5,6,7,20;546:20; 548:2;554:8,10,18;555:1,2, 4,5;587:9;657:24;672:8; 681:16</p> <p><b>dispensed (1)</b> 696:14</p> <p><b>disprove (1)</b> 611:1</p> <p><b>disturbance (1)</b> 528:23</p> <p><b>Division (1)</b> 526:3</p> <p><b>docket (1)</b> 526:6</p> <p><b>Doctor (71)</b> 526:17,23;530:2;532:7; 535:16;537:24;538:1,24; 539:6;540:2;542:13;544:7, 10,21;545:1,5,17;548:19; 551:15;555:17;557:8,14; 558:3;561:23;567:2;571:2; 574:18,19,20,23;575:13,14, 15,17,21;576:12;577:8; 582:10;583:1;584:13;</p>	<p>588:10;593:4;595:5;604:5; 605:5;607:15;625:1,18; 631:9;634:4,9;641:14,15; 644:11,20;645:16;651:9; 656:7;665:3,15;669:22; 680:3;686:6;687:5;694:1; 701:5;713:8;717:1;720:16, 16,18</p> <p><b>doctors (3)</b> 612:2;632:4;710:4</p> <p><b>doctor's (7)</b> 541:22;545:20;572:8; 692:12,20,22,23</p> <p><b>document (9)</b> 532:7,8;535:17;542:24; 562:13;583:6;673:8;689:8; 725:23</p> <p><b>documentary (1)</b> 729:24</p> <p><b>documentation (1)</b> 569:9</p> <p><b>documented (1)</b> 576:3</p> <p><b>documenting (1)</b> 709:2</p> <p><b>documents (8)</b> 563:23;598:8;689:5,7; 695:20;696:5;729:20;730:2</p> <p><b>done (14)</b> 545:3;575:3;577:24; 586:12;614:1,2;615:6; 640:6,11,21;655:3;669:13; 680:4;689:13</p> <p><b>dosage (4)</b> 565:23;566:2;568:18; 593:7</p> <p><b>dosages (2)</b> 529:9;594:5</p> <p><b>dose (4)</b> 530:6;538:18;573:20; 586:24</p> <p><b>doses (2)</b> 586:19;595:2</p> <p><b>double (1)</b> 643:12</p> <p><b>double-check (2)</b> 637:15,17</p> <p><b>doubt (2)</b> 605:19;606:1</p> <p><b>down (7)</b> 562:1;578:2;579:24; 595:24;596:4;642:24; 684:16</p> <p><b>downhill (1)</b> 660:18</p> <p><b>downloaded (2)</b> 665:8,13</p> <p><b>DPH (1)</b> 729:14</p> <p><b>Dr (426)</b> 526:11,20;527:3;530:18; 532:18,20;533:11,20; 539:20;542:9;548:12;555:9,</p>
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12,13;556:22;557:12,17; 559:7,9,18,24;560:4,18,19; 562:12;564:13;565:5;573:5; 574:16;576:15;580:18; 590:20,21;591:17;592:8; 593:20;597:1,2,3,4,8,12,16; 598:5;599:5,13,20;600:18, 21,24;601:20,24;602:21,24; 603:2,8,13,16,20,23;604:7, 11,16,18,22;605:10,11,13, 14,20;606:2,6,12,15,17,22, 22,23;607:3,10,17,19,21; 608:3,9,9,17,23;609:1,12, 19;610:3;611:5,8,10,13,15, 24;612:4;613:1,18;614:1,15, 17,20,22;615:10;616:11,14; 620:5,10;621:4,12,14;622:6, 10,20,23,24;623:5,12,12,14, 20,22;624:2,9,10,23;625:6, 9,15,19,20,22;626:2,5,7,12, 14,19,22;627:5,14,18,18; 628:21,24;629:7,12,14,16, 17,18;630:5,8,10;631:21; 632:2,2,15,19,22;633:2,6; 634:5,8;635:2,16;640:5,19, 23;641:18,21,22;642:10,20; 643:9,11,23;644:1,14; 645:11,12,24;646:11,21,24; 647:5,5,10,18;648:5,20; 649:8;653:9,9,11,12,17,22, 22;654:3,13,22;655:14,23; 656:10,15,19;657:20; 658:11,14,21;659:10,18,19; 660:4,6,8,9;661:6,7,9,11,19; 662:3,6;663:1,8;664:3,7,10, 16,18;665:7,17,21;666:11; 667:11,13,16,17;668:4,11, 15;669:19;671:2;672:1,15, 19;673:5,18;674:10,12; 675:6,9;676:4,10;677:4; 678:5,18,18;679:15,22; 681:1,1,14,19,21;682:19,22; 683:11,11,21,22;684:2,4,4, 20;685:7,11,23,23;686:8,9, 10,24;687:6,8;688:2,5,10, 13,19;689:2,11,12,14,14; 695:5,7,9,22;696:2,2,4,7,8,9, 22;698:8,18,22;701:4,9,11, 11,22;702:6,6,22;703:6,9, 11,14,17,22;704:5,8,16,18, 24;705:6,8,9,19,24;706:11, 15,19,24;707:1;708:3; 709:6;710:17;712:10,14,17, 19,20;713:1,3,5,22,22; 714:6,9,11;715:5,16;716:12, 13;717:13,15,20;718:4,5,6, 21;719:8;720:10,19;721:3,5, 8,13,15,17,18,20;722:1,7,12; 723:8,13;724:3,3,8,8,12,16; 725:2,6,21,22;726:2,10,11, 13,13,15,19,21,22;727:5,20, 22,23;728:2,6;729:7,9,21; 730:4,7,9,12,17,21;731:2,17, 22;732:1,7,13 <b>drags (2)</b> 585:1;589:8 <b>draw (4)</b> 533:21;621:19;623:8,23 <b>drift (1)</b> 586:7 <b>drip (4)</b> 540:19,22;571:5;573:24 <b>drips (2)</b> 570:6,7 <b>drug (16)</b> 587:7,11,11;629:1,8,19, 21,24;630:10,19,20,24; 632:9;699:10;708:11; 718:20 <b>drugs (9)</b> 585:9,10;633:8;654:4,14, 23;696:12;720:3,7 <b>D's (1)</b> 687:22 <b>due (2)</b> 660:23;731:6 <b>duplication (1)</b> 598:8 <b>Duragesic (6)</b> 699:10,11,15,16,22;708:6 <b>during (9)</b> 553:5;559:16,23;574:18; 627:1;636:10;671:8;707:4; 723:5 <b>Dwyer (1)</b> 601:15 <b>dysfunction (3)</b> 641:8;649:21;650:3 <b>dystonia (21)</b> 561:2,4,7,13,23;562:5; 566:6;569:4,7,10,15;571:15; 579:2,3,5,13,15,16;585:20; 593:23;595:15	22;732:1,7,13 <b>drags (2)</b> 585:1;589:8 <b>draw (4)</b> 533:21;621:19;623:8,23 <b>drift (1)</b> 586:7 <b>drip (4)</b> 540:19,22;571:5;573:24 <b>drips (2)</b> 570:6,7 <b>drug (16)</b> 587:7,11,11;629:1,8,19, 21,24;630:10,19,20,24; 632:9;699:10;708:11; 718:20 <b>drugs (9)</b> 585:9,10;633:8;654:4,14, 23;696:12;720:3,7 <b>D's (1)</b> 687:22 <b>due (2)</b> 660:23;731:6 <b>duplication (1)</b> 598:8 <b>Duragesic (6)</b> 699:10,11,15,16,22;708:6 <b>during (9)</b> 553:5;559:16,23;574:18; 627:1;636:10;671:8;707:4; 723:5 <b>Dwyer (1)</b> 601:15 <b>dysfunction (3)</b> 641:8;649:21;650:3 <b>dystonia (21)</b> 561:2,4,7,13,23;562:5; 566:6;569:4,7,10,15;571:15; 579:2,3,5,13,15,16;585:20; 593:23;595:15	4,5;545:23;547:2,6,8;549:5; 560:11,14;561:20,21;562:8, 9;570:4;572:17,18;574:8; 578:10,11;586:18;587:7,13; 588:2,9;590:11;591:12 <b>eight (8)</b> 548:9;552:17;553:4; 572:6;674:15;707:7,9,11 <b>Eighteen (2)</b> 596:6;604:11 <b>either (6)</b> 559:16;586:2;591:9,10; 595:16;644:9 <b>elaborate (1)</b> 716:2 <b>elected (1)</b> 552:16 <b>electronic (17)</b> 526:13;575:23;614:12; 690:13,21,24;691:5,8,10,14, 17;692:15,18,21,22;693:13; 694:20 <b>else (7)</b> 526:16;530:9;584:5; 612:21;705:12;720:11; 732:17 <b>e-mail (2)</b> 606:10;608:8 <b>emergency (2)</b> 543:19;575:4 <b>EMG's (2)</b> 657:21,24 <b>EMR (1)</b> 556:17 <b>ENC (1)</b> 539:23 <b>encounter (20)</b> 539:24;540:3;544:8; 548:9;551:13,17;559:3,11, 15,19,22;560:17;564:16; 566:5;573:3;590:2,3; 621:15;622:22,24 <b>encounters (2)</b> 680:20;691:8 <b>end (3)</b> 682:13;700:8;726:3 <b>end-of-life (2)</b> 700:7,10 <b>endpoint (4)</b> 655:9,11;656:11,21 <b>endpoints (3)</b> 654:13,24;655:6 <b>ends (1)</b> 730:16 <b>energy (2)</b> 572:7,14 <b>enough (3)</b> 641:19;706:24;717:8 <b>enter (1)</b> 612:17 <b>entire (13)</b> 569:8;687:22,24;688:8; 689:3;719:1,3,4;724:13,18,	22;725:1,10 <b>entirely (1)</b> 593:13 <b>entirety (2)</b> 644:12,17 <b>ER (2)</b> 719:10;724:1 <b>era (1)</b> 648:4 <b>error (4)</b> 668:19;683:24;684:13; 686:12 <b>erythematous (2)</b> 554:9;677:8 <b>E's (1)</b> 634:4 <b>especially (6)</b> 578:14,20;642:14;709:16; 717:4;731:16 <b>essential (1)</b> 679:13 <b>established (1)</b> 653:18 <b>estimate (2)</b> 706:14;728:1 <b>etiology (2)</b> 593:18;594:13 <b>evaluate (2)</b> 609:17;610:13 <b>evaluated (1)</b> 583:20 <b>evaluating (1)</b> 641:3 <b>evaluation (4)</b> 641:4;671:12;680:23; 682:13 <b>evaluations (1)</b> 596:13 <b>Eve (1)</b> 601:14 <b>even (5)</b> 529:23;549:9;640:20; 659:19;691:17 <b>event (1)</b> 613:7 <b>events (1)</b> 589:5 <b>evidence (39)</b> 547:24;555:14;561:13; 598:7;599:2,17;601:3,12; 602:9,15;603:11;604:15; 606:4;609:3,10;622:4,8; 627:13,16;650:3;654:20; 656:24;658:17,19;661:1; 672:4;677:20;681:24; 685:14,22;686:5,20;688:7; 696:10;701:7;726:4;727:18; 729:17,24 <b>evidentiary (1)</b> 687:16 <b>evoke (7)</b> 649:9,12,14,22;650:2,4,18 <b>exacerbations (7)</b>
<b>E</b>			
<b>earlier (2)</b> 539:6;556:15 <b>earliest (1)</b> 731:14 <b>early (2)</b> 589:8;657:15 <b>easier (2)</b> 558:20;666:4 <b>Edgar (3)</b> 689:17;697:21,22 <b>editorializing (1)</b> 606:8 <b>effect (16)</b> 529:17,19;535:21;543:7; 547:9;549:3,5,9,13,16,20, 22;550:11;551:1;590:22; 655:11 <b>effects (39)</b> 528:24;532:1,2,4,5;533:4, 6,20;534:11,16,18,24;535:1,			

658:16,23;659:6,20; 660:13,15,17 <b>exact (1)</b> 570:1 <b>exactly (1)</b> 569:24 <b>exam (2)</b> 561:13;642:1 <b>EXAMINATION (33)</b> 526:22;527:15,19;541:10, 11,12;546:6;552:22,24; 561:12;568:24;569:1,2,4,6, 9;571:18,19;572:12;578:12; 579:4;583:10;586:5,9; 593:14;596:14,17;641:6; 650:20;677:20;694:7,9,9 <b>examinations (1)</b> 596:11 <b>examine (1)</b> 611:18 <b>examining (1)</b> 639:20 <b>example (5)</b> 602:18;655:4;662:16; 663:5;680:22 <b>excellent (2)</b> 612:15;667:1 <b>except (4)</b> 577:6;594:11;595:8; 710:16 <b>excerpt (3)</b> 548:13;549:8,12 <b>excerpts (1)</b> 601:1 <b>exclusively (1)</b> 714:12 <b>excuse (15)</b> 528:4;539:22,24;558:4; 570:21;584:14;590:1;629:9; 632:14;651:10;671:9; 673:23;703:4;714:8;730:8 <b>Exhibit (38)</b> 532:23;598:11;599:1,4, 10,15,16,18;600:18;601:2,5, 11,13;602:8,10,14,16,20; 603:10,13,17,19;604:6,7,14, 17;606:3;607:24;608:17; 609:2,5,9;622:9;685:22; 721:12;726:24;727:16,17 <b>exhibits (14)</b> 597:9,14;598:4,6,6;600:7; 602:17;606:9;625:24; 667:12;682:3;688:18; 726:17;729:20 <b>existing (1)</b> 723:17 <b>expansions (1)</b> 643:2 <b>expect (2)</b> 527:18;711:3 <b>expected (2)</b> 681:7,15 <b>experience (15)</b>	544:20;612:1;628:3,24; 632:5;636:12,16;708:10; 711:7,11;713:23,24;720:2,6; 722:21 <b>experienced (3)</b> 647:12;669:22;670:2 <b>experiencing (5)</b> 547:13;560:11;582:21,24; 583:24 <b>experimental (1)</b> 669:3 <b>expert (5)</b> 611:23;638:14,21;666:14; 727:5 <b>expertise (2)</b> 602:18;603:21 <b>expired (1)</b> 729:13 <b>explain (13)</b> 633:3;640:23;652:19; 660:19;661:15;662:10; 675:14;705:20,22;715:15, 17;716:14;724:3 <b>explained (10)</b> 581:4,7;604:10;647:22; 667:3;670:23;689:18; 700:19;701:1;720:17 <b>explaining (2)</b> 646:4;661:13 <b>explanation (7)</b> 552:19;577:20,21;580:24; 646:20;703:2;719:17 <b>explicitly (1)</b> 621:24 <b>explore (1)</b> 605:24 <b>exploring (2)</b> 605:22;632:21 <b>express (1)</b> 678:12 <b>extensive (1)</b> 636:18 <b>external (1)</b> 640:6 <b>extreme (1)</b> 529:13 <b>eye (1)</b> 706:7	<b>factors (1)</b> 613:3 <b>facts (1)</b> 551:3 <b>failure (1)</b> 533:23 <b>fair (3)</b> 691:12;706:24;727:1 <b>fairly (2)</b> 648:2,4 <b>fall (5)</b> 530:16;704:1;717:20; 718:6;719:7 <b>falls (3)</b> 592:11;671:22;676:18 <b>familiar (29)</b> 532:18;533:3;536:8; 537:2;589:6;620:1;624:4, 14,15;637:19,21;646:14; 655:20;656:4;657:7;673:1; 690:21;691:4,7,19;692:2,10; 704:23;708:2,23;709:21; 710:24;711:6;714:11 <b>famous (4)</b> 655:20,21,22;656:8 <b>far (5)</b> 546:19;550:14,18;552:18; 628:20 <b>fashion (1)</b> 586:23 <b>fatigue (13)</b> 529:14,15;541:21;545:7, 17;547:6,9;549:8,13; 577:24;578:4;593:5;617:11 <b>fax (3)</b> 548:20;609:21;610:7 <b>faxed (4)</b> 607:4;609:19;610:4,8 <b>FDA (6)</b> 656:23;667:18,22;700:23; 701:8;705:4 <b>February (2)</b> 596:12;599:12 <b>Federal (2)</b> 624:6,11 <b>feel (4)</b> 647:18;668:17;699:13; 723:1 <b>feeling (1)</b> 723:19 <b>feelings (1)</b> 723:14 <b>feels (5)</b> 557:5;561:16;568:20; 578:1;702:14 <b>fell (1)</b> 620:14 <b>fellowship (1)</b> 669:14 <b>fellowships (1)</b> 615:6 <b>felt (3)</b> 528:20;667:23;699:7	<b>fenfentanyl (1)</b> 700:16 <b>few (11)</b> 528:14;530:4;534:6; 614:10;618:1;652:14; 654:11;669:3;673:6;705:10; 706:1 <b>fibro (3)</b> 660:24;661:12,22 <b>fibromyalgia (10)</b> 593:15;594:8;617:3,5,8; 660:23;661:1,15,17;662:1 <b>figure (1)</b> 580:11 <b>fill (2)</b> 543:24;732:3 <b>final (1)</b> 655:12 <b>find (14)</b> 555:14;558:18;593:17; 594:12;595:24;596:5; 606:17;641:6;644:24; 649:20;663:19,24;703:4,8 <b>findings (7)</b> 637:3,15;638:7,11,23; 639:3;678:24 <b>fine (4)</b> 598:2;600:21;659:11; 704:17 <b>fingers (12)</b> 606:18;641:24;643:17; 644:4,4,9,22,24;645:3,8; 646:2;667:2 <b>finished (1)</b> 641:16 <b>fire (1)</b> 632:10 <b>fired (4)</b> 633:6,9,19,21 <b>firmly (1)</b> 674:14 <b>first (15)</b> 528:1;534:19;556:6; 557:2;577:17;587:10;597:5; 606:11;609:13;610:10,17; 636:1;706:10;720:9;721:9 <b>fit (2)</b> 554:16;616:20 <b>five (10)</b> 592:1;636:8;653:13; 683:2,4,5;685:20;695:1; 696:15;725:24 <b>five-minute (1)</b> 683:6 <b>flag (13)</b> 682:12;716:9,14;717:9; 718:8,18,24;719:2,4,19,23; 722:14,16 <b>flagged (1)</b> 682:16 <b>FLAIR (13)</b> 639:6,8,14,19,20;640:1,1; 642:1,6,7,21;644:2;654:8
	<b>F</b>		
	<b>facilities (1)</b> 602:2 <b>facility (14)</b> 543:18,21;544:23;545:3; 575:2,10,11;690:9;692:24; 704:19;705:20;706:7; 717:23;718:9 <b>fact (13)</b> 594:15;609:20;610:23; 623:23;682:20;688:3,21; 710:18,20;712:8,13;718:21; 722:6		

<b>FLAIR's (4)</b> 639:12;640:7,12,21	557:19	688:11;696:13;699:17; 707:17;726:11	<b>handwriting (1)</b> 542:6
<b>flat (1)</b> 529:12	<b>frequent (1)</b> 594:4	<b>gives (1)</b> 563:10	<b>Handwritten (1)</b> 532:9
<b>fluid (1)</b> 650:19	<b>frequently (5)</b> 529:16;550:17;658:4; 660:16;697:14	<b>giving (12)</b> 542:16;550:3;569:19,23; 586:22;595:9;624:5;632:24; 633:22;679:1;705:5;715:2	<b>happen (1)</b> 595:8
<b>focus (1)</b> 591:2	<b>Friday (1)</b> 731:6	<b>Glick (6)</b> 606:10,21,22;607:13; 608:9,23	<b>happened (2)</b> 601:23;719:16
<b>focusing (1)</b> 677:9	<b>front (10)</b> 532:8;533:20;548:14; 564:14;577:9;600:9;685:5; 686:17,21;688:23	<b>good (8)</b> 568:10;614:20,21;616:20; 643:10,11;716:21;725:23	<b>happening (3)</b> 541:15;594:23;595:3
<b>follow (6)</b> 548:12;593:22;595:11; 616:17;714:10;715:10	<b>FU (1)</b> 544:13	<b>Gorski (18)</b> 703:24;716:13;717:20; 718:5,6,22;719:8;720:10,19; 721:17,20;722:7,12;724:3, 12,16;726:10,13	<b>happens (3)</b> 554:2;662:21;723:11
<b>followed (2)</b> 590:6;700:8	<b>full (6)</b> 540:24;694:4;726:24; 727:4,12,15	<b>Gorski's (4)</b> 703:14;704:5,8,16	<b>happy (1)</b> 712:10
<b>following (2)</b> 595:14;707:8	<b>further (14)</b> 553:10;571:16;572:4; 587:2,12;593:18;596:23; 614:4;635:13;660:22; 668:22,24;709:17;716:2	<b>government (12)</b> 559:12;614:23;618:18,23; 619:4,7;624:18;638:6,10; 669:4;673:6;685:7	<b>hard (7)</b> 550:5;563:12,14;692:8; 708:8;711:20;712:4
<b>follow-on (5)</b> 625:9;627:9,20;628:6,10	<b>Follow-up (9)</b> 544:14,18;553:16;663:2; 666:11;709:11,15;711:9,13	<b>gram (2)</b> 573:7,10	<b>harming (1)</b> 590:10
<b>force (2)</b> 619:5;621:19	<b>force (2)</b> 619:5;621:19	<b>grave (1)</b> 716:9	<b>head (5)</b> 562:1,2;608:24;646:18; 656:5
<b>forgetting (1)</b> 658:13	<b>forgetting (1)</b> 658:13	<b>gravis (1)</b> 531:16	<b>headache (5)</b> 549:2,5,16;550:11,24
<b>form (9)</b> 536:23;537:5,6;542:5; 567:19;573:1,12;576:18,22	<b>form (9)</b> 536:23;537:5,6;542:5; 567:19;573:1,12;576:18,22	<b>Great (1)</b> 603:8	<b>headaches (21)</b> 533:5;541:21;545:6,14, 17;549:20,20,21;550:1,4,6, 7,8,10,12,22;551:2,2;561:9; 577:5,7
<b>formal (2)</b> 637:5;700:15	<b>formal (2)</b> 637:5;700:15	<b>greater (2)</b> 548:23;674:14	<b>heading (4)</b> 616:6;715:5,11,14
<b>format (2)</b> 633:5;692:3	<b>format (2)</b> 633:5;692:3	<b>Greeley (2)</b> 599:11,12	<b>Health (12)</b> 528:19;533:2;539:10; 543:15,16;601:6;602:1; 605:15;670:1;704:19; 705:20;706:7
<b>formats (1)</b> 680:9	<b>formats (1)</b> 680:9	<b>G's (1)</b> 685:14	<b>hear (3)</b> 602:3;625:21;626:13
<b>forms (1)</b> 567:16	<b>forms (1)</b> 567:16	<b>guess (4)</b> 636:7,21;656:4;727:20	<b>heard (7)</b> 619:17;646:12;649:8,11, 14;662:8;728:11
<b>formula (1)</b> 680:9	<b>formula (1)</b> 680:9	<b>guesstimate (1)</b> 636:14	<b>hearing (28)</b> 526:3;610:13;612:8,9; 614:14,23;624:24;628:5,9; 635:9;638:8,22;642:12,17; 650:10;673:11,13,20; 678:14,19;695:17;725:9; 727:1,12,15;731:12;732:9, 17
<b>formulary (1)</b> 528:18	<b>formulary (1)</b> 528:18	<b>guidelines (2)</b> 638:13,22	<b>hearings (1)</b> 635:22
<b>formulate (3)</b> 583:12,14,15	<b>formulate (3)</b> 583:12,14,15	<b>Guillain-Barre (1)</b> 531:8	<b>Hearsay (1)</b> 608:20
<b>forth (2)</b> 596:5;614:11	<b>forth (2)</b> 596:5;614:11	<b>Guillain-Barré (4)</b> 536:7,9,10;554:22	<b>heart (6)</b> 533:8;719:9;722:18,19; 723:19,20
<b>forward (3)</b> 537:17;548:8;552:6	<b>forward (3)</b> 537:17;548:8;552:6	<b>half (3)</b> 720:9;727:21;728:3	<b>held (2)</b> 526:4;562:3
<b>found (5)</b> 547:24;596:1;633:8; 664:2;715:19	<b>found (5)</b> 547:24;596:1;633:8; 664:2;715:19	<b>hand (1)</b> 598:10	<b>help (9)</b> 530:13,16;531:4;650:10, 12;663:9,12;682:2;720:16
<b>foundation (1)</b> 630:3	<b>foundation (1)</b> 630:3	<b>handed (3)</b> 598:5;610:1;635:4	<b>helped (6)</b> 540:19;545:18;552:13;
<b>four (9)</b> 563:5;564:3,24;587:20; 592:1;618:17,22;696:15; 707:6	<b>four (9)</b> 563:5;564:3,24;587:20; 592:1;618:17,22;696:15; 707:6	<b>handout (2)</b> 531:22;532:5	
<b>fourth (1)</b> 717:16	<b>fourth (1)</b> 717:16		
<b>frame (2)</b> 593:12,12	<b>frame (2)</b> 593:12,12		
<b>Francisco (1)</b> 655:4	<b>Francisco (1)</b> 655:4		
<b>frequency (1)</b>	<b>frequency (1)</b>		
	<b>G</b>		
	<b>gait (3)</b> 572:5,13;694:10		
	<b>gave (8)</b> 532:6;587:18;605:17; 607:6,7;646:20;656:23; 686:9		
	<b>GE (1)</b> 693:20		
	<b>general (24)</b> 528:21;549:22;554:6; 569:13;571:24;578:20; 582:24;588:12;625:7,11; 632:11;641:13,13;661:17; 662:12,22;663:4,6;680:1; 691:22;692:13;709:23; 720:4,15		
	<b>generalized (6)</b> 541:21;545:6,13,16; 547:10;553:16		
	<b>generally (3)</b> 575:4;620:7;630:13		
	<b>generic (4)</b> 697:4,14;698:7;699:11		
	<b>gets (1)</b> 692:19		
	<b>Given (61)</b> 529:17;540:18;541:6; 542:2,7;543:10,13;545:24; 546:5,5,6;549:19,21;550:10, 16,17;552:9,19;553:7; 557:1;561:19;563:10,12; 568:17,22;569:24,24;570:1, 2;573:22;574:1,2;578:11; 579:9;585:19;587:1,17,24, 24;591:8;595:12;596:19,19, 20;621:18,23;627:9,18; 644:19;661:11;674:16,19; 679:12;680:21,23;685:8;		
		<b>H</b>	

<p>557:6;676:7;684:5 <b>helpful (3)</b> 632:16;633:1;653:5 <b>helping (4)</b> 577:23;578:2,3;590:10 <b>hematologic (1)</b> 533:24 <b>hemolysis (1)</b> 534:2 <b>here's (1)</b> 543:23 <b>high (2)</b> 586:24;702:16 <b>highly (1)</b> 606:18 <b>himself (1)</b> 526:12 <b>hired (1)</b> 669:4 <b>history (39)</b> 527:7,12,15;540:18; 545:1;550:7;552:4,5,21; 553:3;561:6,6,7,8,9,11; 568:8,19,23;569:23;571:16, 16;572:10;578:6;579:3; 583:6,9;585:13;586:1; 631:17;641:4,5,10,13;642:1; 677:18,19;693:2;694:4 <b>holes (1)</b> 654:9 <b>holiday (1)</b> 731:10 <b>Honor (17)</b> 559:19;597:15;607:4; 609:19;622:7;623:9;633:3; 668:12;682:20;686:15; 688:10,13,19;695:23;705:7; 706:20;729:7 <b>hope (1)</b> 730:4 <b>hospital (10)</b> 543:8,18,20;575:5,13,22; 639:10;690:8,11;719:12 <b>hospitals (2)</b> 690:13;709:20 <b>hour (4)</b> 538:20;614:6;727:21; 728:2 <b>hours (5)</b> 542:6;618:17,22;706:16; 728:3 <b>Hummell (2)</b> 716:12;718:4 <b>hundred (2)</b> 642:24;698:21 <b>hurts (1)</b> 547:15 <b>husband (1)</b> 728:9 <b>hydrate (1)</b> 528:15 <b>hypothetical (2)</b> 575:12,13</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>I</b></p> <p><b>idea (3)</b> 563:10;570:7;572:19 <b>ideally (1)</b> 728:13 <b>identified (3)</b> 648:12;689:4,9 <b>illegal (1)</b> 585:10 <b>image (10)</b> 665:8,9,11,22;666:4,6,17, 22;667:1;725:13 <b>images (5)</b> 636:18;637:13;639:21; 643:14;656:24 <b>imaging (1)</b> 636:11 <b>imbalance (7)</b> 660:23,24;661:2,13,16,18, 23 <b>Imitrex (5)</b> 576:24;577:3,4;579:9; 586:2 <b>immediate (1)</b> 527:9 <b>immediately (1)</b> 632:10 <b>immune (3)</b> 531:2,19;553:22 <b>immunoglobulins (1)</b> 531:4 <b>immunological (2)</b> 531:5;681:16 <b>immunosuppressant (1)</b> 669:22 <b>immunosuppressive (1)</b> 670:2 <b>impact (1)</b> 589:12 <b>imply (2)</b> 634:19;710:21 <b>important (38)</b> 542:15,24;543:2;555:19; 562:13;565:7;576:2;580:3, 8;583:5,10;611:18;638:21; 641:2,11;642:2;655:9; 669:9;675:15;676:9;679:16, 18,24;680:12,22;682:9,12, 14,16;686:3;687:15;688:17, 24;693:9;698:24;699:5,14; 704:9 <b>impoundment (3)</b> 607:9;609:14;610:18 <b>impression (16)</b> 541:13,14;553:1,1; 555:13;561:15;571:21,22; 578:17;583:13,14;593:24; 645:1;694:12;697:23;707:2 <b>impressions (6)</b> 555:11;578:23;664:4,8; 699:2;725:16</p>	<p><b>improve (1)</b> 552:13 <b>improved (6)</b> 536:11,12,16;568:14; 580:7,9 <b>inadvertently (4)</b> 683:14;686:4,6;689:1 <b>include (10)</b> 533:4;545:12;566:2; 640:7;650:16,19;684:21; 691:23;693:9;694:20 <b>included (4)</b> 571:11;684:14,21;699:3 <b>includes (5)</b> 573:2;649:1,2;694:12,14 <b>including (18)</b> 529:6;533:7,23;534:1; 553:9;570:16;579:8;583:16; 592:13;596:21;632:6,7; 636:11;650:18,19;677:22; 694:4;704:3 <b>incomplete (8)</b> 527:15;578:6;686:1,4,6; 695:2,20;696:6 <b>incorrect (4)</b> 606:17;631:5;645:14; 705:22 <b>increase (2)</b> 591:2;692:16 <b>increased (1)</b> 707:5 <b>increasing (1)</b> 557:7 <b>indeed (9)</b> 585:24;591:10;594:10; 682:14;698:14;703:13; 704:4;710:16;719:2 <b>independent (1)</b> 659:2 <b>indicate (12)</b> 530:15;538:11;553:15; 556:1;565:19;569:6;573:24; 684:15,20;713:18;719:17,23 <b>indicated (4)</b> 530:23;605:12;701:12; 710:11 <b>Indicates (5)</b> 568:8,19;582:17;674:13; 719:24 <b>indicating (5)</b> 569:8;674:17;680:21; 709:10,18 <b>indication (49)</b> 529:24;543:4,6;544:9; 546:18;550:15;551:4;553:6, 12;554:11;558:1;560:14; 561:3;568:11;570:10,13,16; 571:7;573:21;574:2,10; 577:14,17,21;579:9;583:4; 587:16;588:4,6,18;590:5,8, 9;592:15,18;594:21,22; 595:7;633:1;667:6;668:23; 697:17;698:1;700:20,23;</p>	<p>701:13,14,21;707:19 <b>indications (4)</b> 550:18;570:14;701:17,18 <b>individual (10)</b> 632:24;640:10,13,17,24; 642:4,4,14;663:10;702:14 <b>indulge (1)</b> 681:20 <b>ineffective (4)</b> 528:20,21,23;539:11 <b>infections (3)</b> 533:7,7;587:13 <b>inflammation (19)</b> 547:21;548:5;569:5,11, 12,13,14,14;578:18;584:24; 585:15,17;586:14,21; 587:18;593:18;594:3,3,12 <b>inflammatory (6)</b> 531:12;537:7,11;554:23; 555:15;558:9 <b>influence (1)</b> 640:7 <b>inform (3)</b> 534:10;570:19;651:18 <b>information (73)</b> 527:21;528:3;529:2,8; 539:8;541:16,17;552:7,8,15; 553:9,14;558:17;561:22; 565:20;566:17;567:4,6; 568:15,21;569:18;572:19; 573:15;578:23;581:20; 582:5;585:3;587:23;590:8; 591:8;594:16;595:16;596:8, 9,10,16,22;612:14;638:5; 641:19,20;644:19;648:1; 650:15;659:2,3;661:4; 664:22;665:5;667:20;673:2, 16,19,24;675:18;680:1,13, 15,16,18,19;681:12,17; 691:24;693:5;694:2,3; 705:11,14;707:16,21; 709:18;718:11 <b>informed (6)</b> 703:23;717:17;721:16; 724:6,11;731:9 <b>infrequently (1)</b> 637:10 <b>infusion (6)</b> 557:5,7;579:11;582:14, 15,19 <b>infusions (1)</b> 578:12 <b>in-house (1)</b> 574:21 <b>initial (2)</b> 598:13;601:24 <b>injection (3)</b> 566:3;588:2,3 <b>injections (27)</b> 527:8;553:5,7,8;562:10, 14,23;563:5,5,9,12,13,15,21, 22;565:2,5,6,13,18,19,20; 566:17;583:18;587:19,22,24</p>
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<p><b>in-patient (2)</b> 575:5;690:9</p> <p><b>input (3)</b> 693:13,14,20</p> <p><b>insert (3)</b> 667:18,22;685:16</p> <p><b>inside (1)</b> 644:5</p> <p><b>insist (4)</b> 639:20;640:11;641:23,24</p> <p><b>instructed (2)</b> 637:12;689:24</p> <p><b>instructing (1)</b> 637:11</p> <p><b>instructions (1)</b> 570:4</p> <p><b>instructive (1)</b> 666:9</p> <p><b>insurance (6)</b> 528:18,20;537:20;539:7; 636:23;694:2</p> <p><b>interdisciplinary (2)</b> 709:8;710:1</p> <p><b>interest (2)</b> 681:7,16</p> <p><b>interested (1)</b> 658:5</p> <p><b>interesting (1)</b> 529:10</p> <p><b>interests (1)</b> 681:18</p> <p><b>interfering (1)</b> 702:17</p> <p><b>interject (8)</b> 548:12;560:4;574:14; 580:16;656:8;666:2;681:20; 721:9</p> <p><b>international (1)</b> 566:24</p> <p><b>Internet (3)</b> 665:8,22;666:5</p> <p><b>interpret (6)</b> 563:13;636:24;639:3; 642:15;676:3;679:7</p> <p><b>interpretation (3)</b> 636:13;674:3,5</p> <p><b>interpreted (2)</b> 644:18;674:17</p> <p><b>interpreting (6)</b> 636:4,8,9,11,17;679:4</p> <p><b>interrupt (1)</b> 533:10</p> <p><b>interrupted (1)</b> 721:4</p> <p><b>into (30)</b> 545:10,11;546:15;554:17; 592:11;599:1,16;601:2,11; 602:8,14;603:10;604:14; 605:22;606:3;609:2,9; 612:17;613:15;619:5; 621:18;681:23;685:14,22; 693:5,13,14,15,20;727:17</p> <p><b>intravenous (1)</b></p>	<p>529:6</p> <p><b>introduce (4)</b> 606:9;622:10,15;688:17</p> <p><b>introduced (2)</b> 606:14;681:23</p> <p><b>introducing (1)</b> 622:14</p> <p><b>introduction (1)</b> 668:8</p> <p><b>invaders (1)</b> 553:23</p> <p><b>investigator's (1)</b> 600:3</p> <p><b>invited (1)</b> 678:19</p> <p><b>involuntarily (1)</b> 562:3</p> <p><b>involve (2)</b> 644:22;679:4</p> <p><b>involvement (2)</b> 650:17;671:15</p> <p><b>involves (1)</b> 624:7</p> <p><b>irritation (1)</b> 574:9</p> <p><b>Island (4)</b> 615:14,23;616:4,15</p> <p><b>isolated (1)</b> 657:6</p> <p><b>issue (6)</b> 537:19;547:17;550:12,13; 613:18;706:20</p> <p><b>issued (1)</b> 655:3</p> <p><b>issues (12)</b> 555:12;578:5;579:20; 581:12,18,23;608:10; 617:18;685:10;706:23; 731:6,8</p> <p><b>IV (3)</b> 538:17,19;578:11</p> <p><b>IVI (1)</b> 540:22</p> <p><b>IVIg (61)</b> 527:11;529:6;530:22; 531:2,14,18;532:9;533:2,3; 535:2,17;536:4,6,8,11; 537:1,4,5;540:19;541:9; 545:23;546:3,11;548:14; 549:6,12,21;550:6,9,11,14; 551:1,4;552:6,12,16;553:3; 557:5,17,19;558:7,16; 561:10;562:10;568:9,10; 570:8;571:8;572:2;576:7; 577:16;578:2;580:10,24; 585:23;586:19,22;587:16; 593:6,8;594:24</p>	<p>526:10</p> <p><b>January (8)</b> 526:2;599:4;609:17; 610:12;727:2;731:14,19; 732:16</p> <p><b>jitteriness (1)</b> 702:19</p> <p><b>join (1)</b> 616:21</p> <p><b>joint (14)</b> 541:21;545:6,13,16; 547:10,10,16;549:9,13; 571:15;578:3;579:21;593:5; 677:21</p> <p><b>joints (2)</b> 547:14,14</p> <p><b>Josephine (1)</b> 664:14</p> <p><b>journal (2)</b> 609:21;655:16</p> <p><b>journals (1)</b> 615:11</p> <p><b>Judicial (2)</b> 631:23;634:6</p> <p><b>July (4)</b> 558:23;573:1,2;599:19</p> <p><b>June (2)</b> 559:10;566:14</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>L</b></p> <p><b>lab (6)</b> 588:14,15,16,17,19,19</p> <p><b>laboratories (1)</b> 639:9</p> <p><b>laboratory (2)</b> 639:10;677:22</p> <p><b>labs (1)</b> 671:18</p> <p><b>lack (2)</b> 580:23;590:22</p> <p><b>large (2)</b> 529:5;616:16</p> <p><b>last (8)</b> 581:11;588:15;610:14; 700:13;705:8;706:1,5;721:1</p> <p><b>late (2)</b> 586:7;614:10</p> <p><b>later (3)</b> 537:8;628:17,19</p> <p><b>Law (2)</b> 526:4;633:23</p> <p><b>lawyer (1)</b> 601:15</p> <p><b>lay (1)</b> 702:21</p> <p><b>lead (4)</b> 532:3;533:6,8;534:3</p> <p><b>leads (1)</b> 529:1</p> <p><b>learning (2)</b> 618:18,23</p> <p><b>least (3)</b> 596:2;727:23;728:1</p> <p><b>leave (4)</b> 530:20;538:1,4;687:20</p> <p><b>leaving (1)</b> 590:15</p> <p><b>led (1)</b> 644:23</p> <p><b>leeway (1)</b> 605:22</p> <p><b>left (13)</b> 572:5,13;586:7;587:20; 676:20;716:12;717:3;718:2, 10,18;720:10;722:11; 728:10</p> <p><b>legal (9)</b> 622:6;665:13;666:12,16, 23;687:20;695:4,19;696:6</p> <p><b>legally (2)</b> 687:21,22</p> <p><b>length (1)</b> 706:14</p> <p><b>lengthy (1)</b> 607:20</p> <p><b>lesion (4)</b> 593:17;594:12;656:12; 657:1</p> <p><b>lesions (11)</b> 646:7,24;648:11,15,18;</p>
		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>K</b></p> <p><b>keep (3)</b> 577:8;658:13;706:21</p> <p><b>Kenneth (1)</b> 526:10</p> <p><b>kept (3)</b> 651:8,11;708:11</p> <p><b>key (1)</b> 710:18</p> <p><b>kilogram (1)</b> 538:17</p> <p><b>kind (1)</b> 672:13</p> <p><b>knew (2)</b> 624:23;698:22</p> <p><b>knowing (5)</b> 556:15;635:6;647:10; 671:17;679:8</p> <p><b>knowledge (13)</b> 577:5;619:22;620:15,24; 632:6;642:11,13,18;659:2; 677:1;696:17;711:17; 713:24</p> <p><b>knowledgeable (1)</b> 647:12</p> <p><b>known (3)</b> 528:14;670:24;683:14</p> <p><b>knows (1)</b> 630:6</p> <p><b>Krause (1)</b> 557:3</p> <p><b>K-R-A-U-S-E (1)</b> 557:4</p>	
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>J</b></p> <p><b>jacket (1)</b> 566:10</p> <p><b>James (1)</b></p>		

652:16;653:15,24;654:8,9,10 <b>less (3)</b> 527:11;548:22;550:12 <b>lethargic (2)</b> 572:7,14 <b>letter (10)</b> 598:14,16,18;599:4,11,13,19;600:23;601:5;634:14 <b>letterhead (1)</b> 601:14 <b>letters (2)</b> 620:4;621:3 <b>level (5)</b> 642:18;679:19;681:3,4;702:16 <b>Levin (116)</b> 526:20;530:18;533:11,20;548:12;560:4;562:12;564:13;565:5;574:16;580:18;590:20,21;597:2,4,16;614:1,22;616:14;621:4;623:12;624:2,23;626:12,22;627:18;628:21,24;629:7,18;630:5,10;631:21;632:2;634:5;635:2,16;640:5,19,23;642:10,20;644:14;646:21;647:5,10,18;648:5,20;649:8;653:9,22;654:3,13;655:14;657:20;658:21;659:10,19;660:4,9;661:6,19;662:3,6;668:4;671:2;672:1;675:6,9;676:4,10;677:4;678:5,18;679:15,22;681:1,21;683:11,21;684:4,20;685:23;686:9;689:2,12,14;696:2,9;698:8,18,22;701:11;702:6,22;703:17;704:18;705:9,24;708:3;709:6;710:17;713:5,22;715:16;721:3,18;722:1;724:3,8;725:2,6,22;727:22;728:6 <b>Levin's (2)</b> 606:15;629:16 <b>Lian (2)</b> 598:16,19 <b>license (6)</b> 618:9;619:6;673:11,13;705:23;729:12 <b>licensed (1)</b> 621:24 <b>licensing (1)</b> 642:12 <b>licensure (3)</b> 618:12,15;622:7 <b>life (3)</b> 584:24;700:14;702:17 <b>light (1)</b> 722:6 <b>lightly (1)</b> 534:5 <b>likely (6)</b> 529:18;554:19;631:20;	672:21;690:5;702:16 <b>limited (7)</b> 540:18;552:5;568:8;596:9,9;605:13;677:5 <b>line (7)</b> 548:21;587:10,11,12;588:15;632:15,23 <b>list (20)</b> 539:10;596:18;600:7,18;602:17;606:8,24;607:2,4,5,13;609:12,14,16;610:11,12;611:7;613:1;723:3,9 <b>listed (25)</b> 527:14,15;538:16;547:8;548:9;551:13,15;558:9;567:3;572:1;573:20;578:12;579:6;586:9;602:17;603:14;611:6;612:19,24;615:16,19;616:2;664:2;709:8;722:10 <b>listing (1)</b> 548:1 <b>little (5)</b> 558:20;562:7;590:1;595:15;680:18 <b>live (4)</b> 608:18;613:11,14;729:24 <b>locate (1)</b> 601:19 <b>locating (1)</b> 634:3 <b>location (2)</b> 565:18,21 <b>logistically (1)</b> 558:21 <b>lollipops (1)</b> 700:17 <b>long (9)</b> 552:15;571:5;587:14;610:14;631:17;666:3;730:5,12,24 <b>longer (2)</b> 585:7;648:12 <b>long-term (1)</b> 584:23 <b>look (38)</b> 539:14,18;547:7;556:14;585:8,10;615:18;622:17;625:2,5;628:6,10;635:15;641:6;654:7,8,9,10;655:2,9;659:8;667:9,18;669:5,9;675:23;698:24;699:5;700:22;701:23;703:12,18;704:2,10;707:17,22;711:8;715:11 <b>looked (7)</b> 635:7;642:23;664:1;667:20;675:12,14;705:9 <b>looking (41)</b> 535:8,13;536:24;541:24;548:17;551:16;552:4;559:20;563:19,23;574:20;575:19;581:22;598:3,15,17;600:20;607:12,18;609:12;	610:6,10;615:5;641:24;644:17;649:20,22;650:2,4;654:16,22;667:22;676:2;677:18,19,20;684:15;703:18;721:10,12;731:13 <b>Looks (4)</b> 542:6;543:7;548:19;731:12 <b>Lorazepam (2)</b> 696:23,24 <b>lose (1)</b> 605:19 <b>lot (1)</b> 608:22 <b>low (3)</b> 529:13,15,16 <b>lower (1)</b> 529:22 <b>lozenges (1)</b> 700:16 <b>Lugo (1)</b> 721:14 <b>lunch (4)</b> 597:4;612:22;614:8;728:8 <b>lupus (21)</b> 554:9;674:16,19,22;675:3,5,8;677:8,10,11,15,17,19,24;678:2,6,6,10,12;680:2;681:8 <b>lying (1)</b> 529:12	613:4,21;614:5,9,18;616:9;619:22;620:5,16;621:10;622:3,8,11,16,22;623:11,17;624:8;625:6,11,17,20,24;626:4,11,17,21;627:12,15;629:10,14;630:5;631:24;632:14,22;633:4,20;634:3;641:17;642:21;643:8,13,22;644:15;645:9,18,21;646:5,20;647:2;651:18;652:7,10,19,22;653:10,16;654:19;656:1,7,13,17;658:9;659:10,13;660:1,6,20;661:7,10,14;662:10;663:1,7;664:16,24;665:3,15,19;666:2,8;667:3,5,11,15;668:6;669:18;670:23;672:11,16,24;673:14;674:11;675:11,24;678:16;680:5,7;681:2,19;683:2,5,9,20,23;684:5;685:4,13,19;686:5,10,16,19;687:3,10,19;688:5,11,14;689:2,12,19;695:3,6,19,24;696:4,20,23;697:15;698:1;699:9;700:19;701:2,3,5,12;702:1;703:6,17;704:24;705:17;706:9,13,17,21;712:6,12,17;713:1,4,10,15;714:3,8;715:2;717:12,14;720:23;721:7;723:4;725:21;726:3,16,20,23;727:7,11,14,19,24;728:4,13,19,22;729:1,4,8,16,23;730:5,8,10,14,19,23;731:11,23;732:2,8,12,20 <b>magistrate's (1)</b> 714:2 <b>main (8)</b> 531:17,21;617:16;667:6;700:20;701:12,14,21 <b>maintain (1)</b> 666:13 <b>maintaining (1)</b> 618:15 <b>majority (2)</b> 596:17;630:15 <b>makes (2)</b> 554:1;722:9 <b>making (4)</b> 558:14;593:24;639:24;656:14 <b>manage (4)</b> 583:2;604:24;617:14,15 <b>management (8)</b> 593:20;594:20;595:10;698:23;704:1;717:21;719:13;721:20 <b>managing (3)</b> 670:9,16,21 <b>mandate (2)</b> 621:18,24 <b>mandated (4)</b> 633:12,12,23;634:10 <b>many (61)</b>
<b>M</b>			
		<b>machine (1)</b> 609:21 <b>MAGISTRATE (358)</b> 526:2,10,19;528:7,10,21;530:11,18;532:17,22,24;533:10,14,17,19;535:15,20,24;536:3;537:12,15,21,24;538:4,7,10,23;539:3;543:6,12,22;544:6,12,15,19;545:4,15,22;546:13;547:1;548:11,17,22;549:1,7,11,15,19;550:24;551:21;558:24;559:5,8,14,20;560:3,7,13;562:12,16,19,24;563:4,17,21;564:2,8,12,18,22;565:3,9,12,15,21,23;566:1,9;574:13,16;575:18;576:5,10;580:15,18,22;581:3,6,10,16,18,22;582:1,4,8,23;583:17,23;584:5,8;585:4;588:14,21;590:15,17,19;591:1,4,11,14;597:1,6,10,13,18;598:3,15,23;599:3,9;600:2,14,17,22;601:1,4,9,13;602:3,6,10,13,16,23;603:5,12,18,21,24;604:3,9,13,16,20;605:1,5,12,21;606:5,7,20;607:1,7,12,23;608:16;609:4,7,11,23;610:5,22;611:9,22;612:2,6;	

527:23;528:24;530:7; 531:6;536:6;550:8;554:8, 18;555:1,1;578:10;584:1; 585:20;587:6,12;595:21; 596:3;597:3;612:9;616:22; 617:2,10,13,15,20,23;618:2; 619:7;629:5;642:24;643:1; 646:10;650:8;651:3;654:5; 656:3,3;658:3,6;659:9; 671:1,16;672:6;675:5,8; 679:9,11;680:14,18;691:10; 696:14;699:18,19,19,19; 707:3;708:7;714:16;723:2; 728:5,13	653:14;664:21 <b>MD (1)</b> 526:9 <b>mean (15)</b> 530:12;544:13,16;560:9; 633:13,15,16;668:4,4; 695:15;701:14;702:13; 710:2;717:6;721:18 <b>meaning (1)</b> 707:7 <b>means (9)</b> 539:24;570:7;589:2; 619:21,24;645:8;646:1; 661:13;689:24 <b>medical (109)</b> 526:24;534:8;535:10; 536:22;537:18,23;538:1; 539:4,13,15,16,17;541:4,5; 544:4,8;549:23;551:7; 555:7;556:7,11,15;557:16; 558:21;559:1,3,20;560:1,16, 20;564:1,3,9;565:3;566:6,8; 568:2;570:18;572:24; 574:17;575:2,24;576:4,6,12, 17;577:9;580:13,22;582:9; 584:18;589:14;590:13,21; 591:16;592:4,20;593:9; 598:17;615:16,17;616:1,2,7, 7,12;624:18;625:16;629:24; 630:3;638:21;641:13; 643:20;659:4,14,15;675:16; 681:22;682:10;684:6; 685:14;688:7,8,16;690:21, 24;691:5,8,14,18,21,23; 692:18,21,22;693:14,16; 694:20;695:3,5,10;699:2,3, 19;710:6,15;715:19,24; 725:10 <b>medication (47)</b> 527:9;528:13,15;529:17, 19;530:1;531:2;534:3,9,10, 17;535:1,2,6;536:13,18; 538:22;539:7;542:20; 546:19,23;550:3,13,16,20; 552:21;553:18;554:11; 560:8,10,12;567:2;571:13; 574:18;575:9;587:6,17; 588:1,5;590:9;591:9;656:3; 680:20;697:11;698:15; 707:20;716:19 <b>medications (43)</b> 527:14;529:5,8,18,22; 538:12;541:18,23;549:17, 22;553:10,12;561:11; 568:16;570:8,12,15;571:9; 572:17;578:8;585:22,24; 586:16,18,24;588:8;589:10, 20;590:3,7,12;591:23; 593:10;594:4,21;595:6,17; 596:3,20,21;632:7;693:2; 694:14 <b>Medicine (28)</b> 526:8;528:24;529:21;	530:5;531:3;532:3;534:23; 580:6;591:10;592:18;599:6, 14,20;612:11,13;613:7,9,23; 625:1;628:13;631:22;648:5; 665:14;694:15;699:16,20; 707:16;730:16 <b>medicines (10)</b> 529:3;538:16;542:4; 554:13,13;578:9;579:6,8; 596:6;699:19 <b>meds (1)</b> 724:17 <b>meet (8)</b> 611:17;653:3;666:19,21, 22,24;669:24;712:21 <b>meeting (3)</b> 544:20,21;600:11 <b>meetings (1)</b> 600:9 <b>meets (1)</b> 567:4 <b>membership (1)</b> 616:7 <b>memory (1)</b> 647:23 <b>meningitis (1)</b> 549:4 <b>mental (9)</b> 586:6;588:21;589:3,5; 694:8;704:18;705:20;706:6; 725:13 <b>mention (14)</b> 541:4;545:20;561:9; 579:3,4,11,12,17,22;586:1, 2;590:12;645:3;658:13 <b>mentioned (5)</b> 539:7;546:19;554:23; 620:11;663:19 <b>merit (2)</b> 586:16,17 <b>message (3)</b> 703:5,8,19 <b>met (2)</b> 619:2;676:11 <b>methadone (2)</b> 634:16,18 <b>methyl (1)</b> 576:8 <b>middle (1)</b> 721:4 <b>might (5)</b> 598:22;682:24;732:4,13, 15 <b>migraine (5)</b> 549:4;577:5,6;593:22; 595:15 <b>migraines (1)</b> 579:17 <b>mild (1)</b> 645:1 <b>milligrams (6)</b> 538:17,19;573:7,10; 592:1;634:16	<b>milliliters (1)</b> 538:20 <b>mind (5)</b> 539:1;643:6;654:12; 662:3;707:9 <b>minimal (2)</b> 596:16,22 <b>minor (1)</b> 706:23 <b>minutes (12)</b> 538:24;600:12,19;614:10; 652:14;653:13;683:2,3,4,5; 725:24;730:13 <b>missed (1)</b> 596:6 <b>missing (13)</b> 596:1;685:2;686:8,11; 688:3,4,16,20,22,22,24; 689:1;693:7 <b>misspoke (1)</b> 629:9 <b>mistake (2)</b> 554:1;684:19 <b>mistaken (3)</b> 567:22;625:22;631:6 <b>misunderstood (1)</b> 623:2 <b>mitigate (1)</b> 613:8 <b>mitigated (1)</b> 613:10 <b>mitigating (1)</b> 613:3 <b>mitigation (1)</b> 612:13 <b>moment (2)</b> 673:4;697:7 <b>Monday (2)</b> 669:13;731:10 <b>monitored (1)</b> 560:14 <b>monitoring (1)</b> 533:1 <b>month (5)</b> 536:24;537:8;618:3; 628:17;708:8 <b>monthly (13)</b> 557:21;657:14;711:9,15, 20;712:4;713:5,12,13,23; 714:4,13,18 <b>months (2)</b> 628:19;700:13 <b>month's (1)</b> 628:15 <b>more (26)</b> 528:16;529:23;530:17,19; 533:22;550:6;554:20; 558:11;567:6;568:23;606:6; 611:3;630:16;642:1;643:5; 676:7;679:23;680:5,8; 681:7,15;706:16;724:7; 727:7,21;728:3 <b>morning (1)</b>
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530:15 <b>most (8)</b> 544:23;575:23;630:17; 639:13;641:2,11;672:2; 728:17 <b>mostly (1)</b> 657:23 <b>motions (2)</b> 688:15;726:7 <b>motor (1)</b> 694:9 <b>move (8)</b> 544:7;585:5;590:20; 643:6;686:24;695:24;696:4; 713:2 <b>moved (2)</b> 689:18;692:14 <b>MP (4)</b> 572:2;576:7,7,8 <b>MRI (46)</b> 548:4;576:14,15;593:11, 12,13;594:5,13,14,15,16,17; 602:18;603:3,22;607:18,19, 20;636:9,13,13;637:13,15; 638:7,11,23;639:3,5,24; 640:6,11;642:11,13;645:4; 648:17;649:1,2,4,6,7;652:8, 16,20;653:15,24;654:3 <b>MRI's (12)</b> 606:16;636:4,9,24;637:3, 6,7,10;642:15,18;643:4; 653:2 <b>much (8)</b> 528:16;547:15;550:12; 588:1;603:7;605:24;657:17; 702:16 <b>multiple (25)</b> 527:12,16,22;529:17; 541:4,5;552:9;553:11; 554:13;561:8;568:22; 571:20;572:17;574:7; 578:15;585:13,14;587:9; 604:24;646:4;647:11,13; 648:2;653:7;664:5 <b>muscle (8)</b> 527:20;530:23;531:17; 537:8;578:5;581:12,17; 657:24 <b>must (3)</b> 618:17,22;624:13 <b>myasthenia (2)</b> 531:16;554:24 <b>myself (5)</b> 605:23;617:19;629:4; 678:8;705:13	<b>names (3)</b> 607:6;609:15;699:3 <b>naming (1)</b> 585:24 <b>Nancy (1)</b> 598:16 <b>narcotic (6)</b> 536:17;542:23,23;543:1; 589:13;699:10 <b>narcotics (1)</b> 570:16 <b>Nardin (5)</b> 605:14;606:23;611:8,10, 15 <b>Nardin's (2)</b> 605:11,13 <b>National (2)</b> 615:14;616:14 <b>nausea (2)</b> 588:6,7 <b>necessarily (3)</b> 608:5;648:15;717:6 <b>necessary (1)</b> 639:4 <b>necessity (1)</b> 653:24 <b>neck (11)</b> 527:9;561:2;562:2;563:6, 14;564:4;565:5;568:19; 569:14;572:6;587:20 <b>need (17)</b> 573:16;574:19;575:15,17; 577:20;597:8;624:8;627:17; 647:18;648:18;665:16,19; 673:18;700:21;707:4,8; 709:7 <b>needed (3)</b> 535:7;566:17;592:2 <b>needs (4)</b> 553:18;554:11;707:4; 720:14 <b>negative (2)</b> 676:5,7 <b>neither (1)</b> 578:19 <b>nerve (2)</b> 531:9;649:24 <b>nerves (1)</b> 531:9 <b>nervous (6)</b> 554:19;649:21;650:18; 654:11;702:15,21 <b>Neuroimaging (3)</b> 637:19,23;638:3 <b>neuroimmunologist (8)</b> 676:23;677:2,4,6;681:6, 13,15,18 <b>neuroimmunology (3)</b> 669:14,21;672:21 <b>neurologic (14)</b> 533:6;546:20,24;568:22; 571:20;578:15;585:14,21; 589:2;617:18;641:8;677:12;	709:15;711:13 <b>neurological (35)</b> 527:17,19;531:6,7;536:7; 541:11;552:22,24;554:16; 555:2;558:12;561:14; 568:24;569:2;571:18,18; 572:11,15,15;578:19; 583:11;586:9;587:8;593:14; 596:10,13,14;671:12,15; 694:7;700:5;709:12,14; 710:9,11 <b>neurologist (22)</b> 546:9,11;558:14;578:14; 586:10;589:4;619:20,23; 620:2,13,19,23;621:2; 642:15;648:3;671:4,10,19, 23;676:21;677:13;681:10 <b>neurologists (2)</b> 631:23;672:3 <b>neurology (7)</b> 531:18;606:23;631:9; 658:4,6;671:6,7 <b>neuropathic (2)</b> 531:15;536:10 <b>neuropathy (5)</b> 531:13;662:16,19;663:9, 12 <b>new (5)</b> 594:7,16;619:4;654:8; 705:6 <b>newly (1)</b> 533:1 <b>next (16)</b> 600:5;620:6;641:18; 653:11;668:8;682:20;696:1, 5,21;701:9;703:7;705:17; 721:8;722:17;731:7,8 <b>NIH (1)</b> 638:15 <b>nine (1)</b> 600:5 <b>NKDA (2)</b> 689:19;690:3 <b>nodding (1)</b> 608:24 <b>noise (2)</b> 526:14;614:12 <b>non-Centricity (1)</b> 691:14 <b>non-compliant (1)</b> 633:7 <b>None (3)</b> 617:22;700:3;708:9 <b>non-specific (5)</b> 545:10;547:12;569:11; 586:15;645:1 <b>non-steroidal (1)</b> 536:18 <b>normal (16)</b> 530:17;554:2;586:6; 588:22;593:13;594:15,16, 17;596:15;643:16;644:3,18, 21;645:7;646:1;674:15	<b>normally (3)</b> 543:19;546:9;650:6 <b>northeast (1)</b> 636:14 <b>Norwood (1)</b> 719:12 <b>notation (1)</b> 714:18 <b>note (144)</b> 527:7;528:5;529:10; 530:2;535:8,14;536:24; 537:18;540:5,18;541:6,19, 22;542:5,7,12,15;544:10,13; 545:20;551:9,14,14;553:4, 15;555:9,19;556:3,17,17; 557:2,3,8,8,10,20;560:18, 22;561:1,4,20;562:13,16; 563:8;564:1;567:11,13; 569:19,21,23;570:19,23,24; 571:4,14;572:1,4,7,8; 573:17,21;576:4,6,7;577:8; 579:18;582:16;584:13,16; 589:9,14;590:4,6;593:1; 620:12,14,18,22;623:7; 627:2;659:5,12;661:21,22; 662:5,5;663:17;674:6,13,17; 676:3;683:13,15;686:4,4; 687:11,12;690:1;692:12,20, 22,23;693:1,11;695:11; 703:23;706:6;707:7;708:13; 709:2,5,9,13,14;710:1,3,7,8, 10,12,21,22;711:8;712:3; 713:5,6,13,13,18,18;715:21, 23;716:8;717:16,22;719:1,2, 3,5,14;722:10;724:2,9,15 <b>notebook (1)</b> 598:5 <b>noted (12)</b> 535:17;565:9,16;586:5; 589:8;593:16;596:21;647:8; 685:17;696:11,12,12 <b>notes (54)</b> 527:24;540:1;551:16; 560:10;563:18;574:11; 575:4;585:1,11;586:19; 593:1,4,10,18;596:15;603:9; 659:9,11,14,16;663:19; 675:20;679:5,7;683:18; 684:15,15,20;685:24;686:1; 687:13,16;689:20;690:11; 691:7,11;692:1,3,6,7,8; 694:8;696:11;708:10; 709:22;712:16;713:17; 714:17;715:6,8,9,11,12,15 <b>notice (2)</b> 624:20;685:1 <b>noting (1)</b> 685:20 <b>November (5)</b> 591:21;592:5;598:18; 615:3;624:19 <b>number (45)</b> 526:7,24;529:5,7;530:7;
<b>N</b>			
<b>name (16)</b> 533:12,15;537:4;600:3,3, 4;637:21;646:14;650:10; 654:6;693:6;697:4,10,13; 698:7;699:11			

<p>533:11,13;535:10;537:22; 548:18,19;565:13,15,17,17, 21;570:18;595:6;621:11,13; 622:19;623:13;624:17; 625:16,17,18;634:9,16,21; 643:22;654:7,10;658:9,13; 684:19;685:15;692:15; 694:1;697:20;701:17;715:3; 716:5;717:12;725:20; 726:24</p> <p><b>numbers (6)</b> 620:4;621:3;623:4;626:1; 681:21;726:17</p> <p><b>numerous (2)</b> 685:24;710:19</p> <p><b>nurse (25)</b> 529:11;540:5;541:19; 542:8;544:10,21,24;545:15; 547:11;549:24;551:14; 557:3,9;558:3;560:7;562:8; 572:4;628:13;665:13; 666:12,16,23;678:23;710:5; 716:11</p> <p><b>nurse's (3)</b> 544:12;557:10;582:16</p> <p><b>nursing (4)</b> 553:15;556:3;563:24; 570:23</p>	<p><b>o'clock (2)</b> 530:14;732:21</p> <p><b>October (6)</b> 584:19;589:13;590:4; 614:24;615:3;624:19</p> <p><b>odd (1)</b> 595:12</p> <p><b>off (10)</b> 526:14;566:10;584:10; 614:7,12;615:9;646:18; 656:5;683:7;732:22</p> <p><b>offer (1)</b> 703:2</p> <p><b>office (15)</b> 575:3;583:3;586:6; 588:22,23;589:1,3,6,7; 609:20;614:11;637:9;711:9; 712:3;721:13</p> <p><b>official (3)</b> 667:22;683:16;700:22</p> <p><b>officially (1)</b> 616:18</p> <p><b>often (2)</b> 568:17;639:6</p> <p><b>Oftentimes (1)</b> 654:7</p> <p><b>Okuda (2)</b> 657:10,12</p> <p><b>O-K-U-D-A (1)</b> 657:12</p> <p><b>OLR (1)</b> 706:3</p> <p><b>once (18)</b> 538:17;539:18;550:21; 551:11;552:22;569:5;572:9; 596:4;642:3;646:18;651:6; 658:21;666:20;699:13; 708:8;712:22;716:24;724:4</p> <p><b>One (71)</b> 526:5;528:16;534:4; 536:23;543:21;556:6; 557:21;562:3;564:4,4,18,22; 570:9;573:7,10;577:19; 592:1;600:2,23;603:20; 604:8,22;609:15;610:12; 612:23;619:11;625:7,12,23; 626:5;627:1;628:15;630:16; 631:1;646:6;649:19;654:17; 659:5;662:8,20;663:19; 667:13;672:8;673:18; 674:10;677:13,17;679:7; 680:10;683:17;685:1,11; 693:14,17;694:21,24; 695:12;699:18;701:20; 703:4;711:19;712:2,7; 715:19;719:10;722:3; 726:18;728:8,8,18;731:3</p> <p><b>ones (1)</b> 596:4</p> <p><b>one-week (1)</b> 587:4</p> <p><b>ongoing (2)</b> 540:24;606:13</p>	<p><b>online (3)</b> 532:13;706:1,4</p> <p><b>only (26)</b> 528:12;530:7;534:5; 546:20;579:22;607:14; 633:14;640:2;656:22; 658:19;659:1,3,12;661:4; 662:5;670:1;671:7;673:19; 674:13;683:19;684:24; 694:24;695:12,16;719:24; 720:18</p> <p><b>open (1)</b> 693:15</p> <p><b>opinion (19)</b> 540:13;567:7,10;627:22; 628:1;629:17;640:3,5; 656:8;678:12,24;679:14; 685:3;709:5,12;712:5; 713:7,10,15</p> <p><b>opinions (3)</b> 637:14;679:2;684:24</p> <p><b>opioid (3)</b> 619:14;621:5;698:16</p> <p><b>opioids (5)</b> 579:8;586:2;595:9; 698:12;720:15</p> <p><b>opportunity (1)</b> 688:12</p> <p><b>opposed (4)</b> 543:23;635:1;667:21; 696:10</p> <p><b>opposite (1)</b> 660:10</p> <p><b>optic (1)</b> 649:24</p> <p><b>options (3)</b> 541:1,2,3</p> <p><b>oral (1)</b> 587:4</p> <p><b>orally (1)</b> 586:2</p> <p><b>order (45)</b> 536:23;537:6;541:24; 542:1,5,13;543:19,22; 546:11;557:17,20;566:23; 567:1,14,16,18;573:1,2,12; 575:6,17,21;576:1,1,2,3,18, 22;577:3,9;588:19;607:9; 609:15;610:18;639:5,6,8; 649:19;650:6;652:17; 671:18;672:22;695:10; 725:5;732:14</p> <p><b>ordered (13)</b> 567:8;573:5;589:20; 590:3;591:24;592:8;631:3; 649:17;678:6;685:21; 687:23;695:6,21</p> <p><b>orderer (1)</b> 589:24</p> <p><b>ordering (8)</b> 567:5;574:18;576:15; 582:11;588:20;671:21; 676:17;678:9</p>	<p><b>orders (2)</b> 575:22;590:7</p> <p><b>organization (2)</b> 637:20;706:19</p> <p><b>organized (2)</b> 691:8,11</p> <p><b>original (1)</b> 627:20</p> <p><b>others (1)</b> 546:22</p> <p><b>otherwise (1)</b> 710:11</p> <p><b>out (34)</b> 531:9;532:14;538:13,18; 550:9;555:12;574:23; 580:11;597:16;619:12; 639:16,17;640:15;641:9; 662:17;668:16;671:5,11; 676:7,15;677:15,17;678:2,6, 11;682:13;693:3;694:16; 695:11,11;717:3;718:18; 728:11;732:14</p> <p><b>outpatient (2)</b> 543:17,21</p> <p><b>output (1)</b> 691:18</p> <p><b>outputs (1)</b> 692:18</p> <p><b>outside (3)</b> 553:23;554:1;640:6</p> <p><b>over (14)</b> 529:12,12;547:15;551:12; 593:11;595:5,19;614:2; 617:23;629:5;648:19; 656:24;696:11;718:24</p> <p><b>overall (3)</b> 528:5,10;640:2</p> <p><b>Overruled (6)</b> 664:24;665:3;672:24; 673:14;678:16;706:9</p> <p><b>own (3)</b> 532:15;636:18;730:3</p> <p><b>Oxycodone (15)</b> 589:20;590:22;591:12; 592:1;634:21,23;697:17,18, 24;698:2,4,14,19;699:4; 708:5</p> <p><b>OxyContin (11)</b> 617:24;618:2,5;627:3; 698:17,19,20;699:4;707:6, 21;708:6</p>
<b>O</b>			
<p><b>oath (5)</b> 526:20;619:16;620:8,9; 712:2</p> <p><b>object (2)</b> 656:10,20</p> <p><b>Objection (34)</b> 559:7;597:6,7;598:12,19; 599:7,21;600:13;601:7,16; 602:4,11,19,22;604:1;605:2; 608:14;609:5;622:12,17; 630:2;641:15;646:23; 655:22;660:5;664:23; 669:16;672:23;673:12; 678:15;681:11;705:16; 706:8;720:21</p> <p><b>objective (2)</b> 678:24;679:2</p> <p><b>observation (1)</b> 628:1</p> <p><b>observed (1)</b> 583:12</p> <p><b>obtain (4)</b> 583:8;673:16;677:24; 688:12</p> <p><b>occasion (1)</b> 592:14</p> <p><b>occur (3)</b> 533:24;534:20;544:24</p> <p><b>occurred (1)</b> 657:1</p> <p><b>occurring (1)</b> 587:14</p>	<p><b>Okuda (2)</b> 657:10,12</p> <p><b>O-K-U-D-A (1)</b> 657:12</p> <p><b>OLR (1)</b> 706:3</p> <p><b>once (18)</b> 538:17;539:18;550:21; 551:11;552:22;569:5;572:9; 596:4;642:3;646:18;651:6; 658:21;666:20;699:13; 708:8;712:22;716:24;724:4</p> <p><b>One (71)</b> 526:5;528:16;534:4; 536:23;543:21;556:6; 557:21;562:3;564:4,4,18,22; 570:9;573:7,10;577:19; 592:1;600:2,23;603:20; 604:8,22;609:15;610:12; 612:23;619:11;625:7,12,23; 626:5;627:1;628:15;630:16; 631:1;646:6;649:19;654:17; 659:5;662:8,20;663:19; 667:13;672:8;673:18; 674:10;677:13,17;679:7; 680:10;683:17;685:1,11; 693:14,17;694:21,24; 695:12;699:18;701:20; 703:4;711:19;712:2,7; 715:19;719:10;722:3; 726:18;728:8,8,18;731:3</p> <p><b>ones (1)</b> 596:4</p> <p><b>one-week (1)</b> 587:4</p> <p><b>ongoing (2)</b> 540:24;606:13</p>	<p><b>online (3)</b> 532:13;706:1,4</p> <p><b>only (26)</b> 528:12;530:7;534:5; 546:20;579:22;607:14; 633:14;640:2;656:22; 658:19;659:1,3,12;661:4; 662:5;670:1;671:7;673:19; 674:13;683:19;684:24; 694:24;695:12,16;719:24; 720:18</p> <p><b>open (1)</b> 693:15</p> <p><b>opinion (19)</b> 540:13;567:7,10;627:22; 628:1;629:17;640:3,5; 656:8;678:12,24;679:14; 685:3;709:5,12;712:5; 713:7,10,15</p> <p><b>opinions (3)</b> 637:14;679:2;684:24</p> <p><b>opioid (3)</b> 619:14;621:5;698:16</p> <p><b>opioids (5)</b> 579:8;586:2;595:9; 698:12;720:15</p> <p><b>opportunity (1)</b> 688:12</p> <p><b>opposed (4)</b> 543:23;635:1;667:21; 696:10</p> <p><b>opposite (1)</b> 660:10</p> <p><b>optic (1)</b> 649:24</p> <p><b>options (3)</b> 541:1,2,3</p> <p><b>oral (1)</b> 587:4</p> <p><b>orally (1)</b> 586:2</p> <p><b>order (45)</b> 536:23;537:6;541:24; 542:1,5,13;543:19,22; 546:11;557:17,20;566:23; 567:1,14,16,18;573:1,2,12; 575:6,17,21;576:1,1,2,3,18, 22;577:3,9;588:19;607:9; 609:15;610:18;639:5,6,8; 649:19;650:6;652:17; 671:18;672:22;695:10; 725:5;732:14</p> <p><b>ordered (13)</b> 567:8;573:5;589:20; 590:3;591:24;592:8;631:3; 649:17;678:6;685:21; 687:23;695:6,21</p> <p><b>orderer (1)</b> 589:24</p> <p><b>ordering (8)</b> 567:5;574:18;576:15; 582:11;588:20;671:21; 676:17;678:9</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <p><b>package (4)</b> 551:3;667:18,22;694:22</p> <p><b>Padmanabhan (257)</b> 526:9,11;532:18,20; 556:22;557:12,17;559:7,9, 18,24;560:18,19;573:5; 576:15;591:17;592:8;597:1, 3,8,12;598:5;599:5,13,20; 600:18,21,24;601:20;</p>

<p>602:21,24;603:2,8,13,16,20,23;604:7,11,16,18,22; 605:10,20;606:2,6,12,22; 607:3,10,17;608:9,17;609:1,12,19;610:3;611:5,13,24; 612:4;613:18;614:15,17,20; 615:10;616:11;620:5,10; 621:12,14;622:6,10,20,23,24;623:5,12,14,20,22;624:9,10;625:6,9,15,19,20,22; 626:2,5,7,14,19;627:5,14,18;629:12,14,17;630:8; 632:2,15,19,22;633:2,6; 634:8;641:18,21,22;643:9,11,23;644:1;645:11,12,24; 646:24;647:5;653:9,11,12,17,22;654:22;655:23; 656:10,15,19;658:11,14; 659:18;660:6,8;661:7,9,11; 663:1,8;664:16,18;665:7,17,21;666:11,15;667:11,13,16,17; 668:11,15;669:19;672:15,19;673:5,18;674:10,12; 678:18;681:1,14,19;682:19,22;683:11,22;684:2,4;685:7,11,23;686:8,10,24;687:6,8; 688:2,5,10,13,19;689:11,14; 695:5,7,9,22;696:2,4,7,8,22; 701:4,9,11,22;702:6;703:6,9,11,22;704:24;705:6,8,19; 706:11,15,19,24;707:1; 712:10,14,17,19,20;713:1,3,22;714:6,9,11;715:5;717:13,15;721:5,8,13,15;723:8,13; 724:8;725:21;726:2,11,13,19,21,22;727:20,23;728:2; 729:7,9,21;730:4,7,9,12,17,21;731:2,17,22;732:1,7,13</p> <p><b>Padmanabhan's (6)</b> 527:3;539:20;542:9; 601:24;608:3;613:1</p> <p><b>page (74)</b> 530:20;538:6,8;539:23; 544:16;548:19,21;555:10; 556:9,21;560:19;564:16; 565:1;566:23;567:24; 570:21;572:23;582:17; 584:14;591:19;592:4,6; 600:2,5,5,6;621:13;623:6,16;627:24;643:18,21; 680:23,23;681:3,5;682:6,23; 683:15,16;684:10,10,13,19,21,23;685:1,1,8;686:8,11,18,20,22;687:5;693:15; 703:14,16;707:2,13,16,20; 708:1,1;710:22;714:21,23,24;715:1;716:3,5;720:20; 724:21;725:4</p> <p><b>pages (25)</b> 539:18;540:10,12;556:6,23;592:22;673:7;679:9; 680:18;682:2,17;684:7,16,17;688:1;692:1,15;694:24;</p>	<p>695:11,12,16;696:16,18,19; 709:22</p> <p><b>Paikos (136)</b> 526:11,17,23;529:24; 530:19,22;532:6,23;533:13,16,17,18,18;534:7;535:15; 536:4;537:14,17,21,23; 539:4;544:4,6;547:5; 548:11;551:7,23;552:3; 559:2;560:1,3,16,20,24; 563:17,20,24;564:2,6,13,20; 566:4,13;574:13,15;576:11; 580:15,17,21;584:7,12; 586:12;590:16,17,18; 591:15,18,20;596:23;597:7,15,22;598:1,12,13,21;599:8,22,23;600:11,15;601:6,8,18,21;602:5,12,19,20,22; 603:24;604:2;605:1,2; 607:1,23;608:1;609:5,6; 610:19,20;612:23;614:4; 622:11,13,18,21;630:2; 641:15;646:23;655:22; 660:5;664:23;665:1;669:16; 672:23;673:12;678:15; 680:3;681:11;684:1;685:9,17;686:13;687:5,21;689:13; 705:16;706:8;720:21;721:2; 726:9,15;727:3,9,12;728:4,7,15,21,24;729:3,6,19; 732:11,19</p> <p><b>pain (93)</b> 527:11;535:20,22;536:1,4,9,12,13,14,15,19;541:17,21;545:6,13,16;547:10,11,16;549:9,13;553:16;561:8; 568:11;571:15;572:6; 577:24;578:3,4;579:21,22; 582:15,16,18,20,22,24; 583:2,7,9,11,13,18,24; 592:14;593:5,20;594:20; 595:9;617:13,14,15,16,17,21;629:3,8,9,13,18,21; 631:7,10,11,12,13,13,14,15,18,19;632:3,6;698:23; 699:17;704:1;707:17,18,19,22;708:6;709:16;716:10,17,20;717:20;719:12;720:14; 721:20;723:15,18;724:5,17</p> <p><b>pains (1)</b> 585:20</p> <p><b>palm (1)</b> 586:8</p> <p><b>palsy (1)</b> 554:21</p> <p><b>panel (1)</b> 678:10</p> <p><b>panels (1)</b> 638:14</p> <p><b>panic (1)</b> 702:23</p> <p><b>paper (8)</b> 610:1;690:14,16;692:14;</p>	<p>710:8,19;714:18;715:21</p> <p><b>papers (3)</b> 657:15;704:3;710:24</p> <p><b>paragraph (1)</b> 581:11</p> <p><b>paralysis (1)</b> 531:10</p> <p><b>Pardon (1)</b> 650:23</p> <p><b>parentheses (1)</b> 537:3</p> <p><b>paroxysmal (4)</b> 579:2,3,13,15</p> <p><b>parse (2)</b> 610:1,5</p> <p><b>part (18)</b> 532:15;534:8;536:14; 553:2;555:8;558:22;599:14; 602:2;625:23;640:2;650:11; 655:10;671:18;673:22; 692:16;700:12;729:20,21</p> <p><b>participate (1)</b> 655:16</p> <p><b>particular (13)</b> 544:23;550:21;567:24; 620:3;621:2;649:21;653:20; 673:22;703:5;715:18; 721:23;722:3;724:15</p> <p><b>particularly (7)</b> 533:21;535:3;543:2; 570:10;578:7,11;639:10</p> <p><b>parties (2)</b> 672:17;689:8</p> <p><b>parties' (1)</b> 526:12</p> <p><b>Partners (1)</b> 669:2</p> <p><b>pass (4)</b> 612:16;613:6,8;663:20</p> <p><b>past (3)</b> 585:19;693:2;696:11</p> <p><b>patch (1)</b> 699:17</p> <p><b>pathological (1)</b> 558:11</p> <p><b>pathway (1)</b> 650:5</p> <p><b>pathways (2)</b> 649:23;650:1</p> <p><b>patient (234)</b> 527:8,12,16;528:22; 529:3;534:10,15,18;535:3; 541:11,15,20;542:1,16; 543:11,23;544:3,17,20; 545:1,2;546:11;547:13,20; 549:24;550:3,8,21;551:1,2; 552:23;553:2,10;557:13,15; 558:4,9;561:1,18,20,21; 565:6;568:9;569:2,9;570:3,5,6,15;571:17,19,23,23; 572:10;574:1,18,22;575:6,8,8,13,15;576:23;577:14; 578:14,21;579:9;580:12;</p>	<p>582:10,17,24;583:7,17; 584:22;585:13;586:17; 587:2,21;588:6;593:4,19; 594:1;595:13;602:24; 603:19;604:19,20;605:7,8,18,23;610:17;616:16; 620:12;621:8,15;623:5,15,18;625:16;627:6;630:14,21; 631:8,13,15,17,18;632:8,10,12;633:7,9,17,19,21;634:1,4,9,14;635:5,7;639:21; 640:4,8,10,14,17,24;641:1,3,12;642:4,8,9;643:6,20; 648:16;652:17;653:3;658:8,15,15;659:1,3;660:12,14,15; 662:16;663:10;671:22; 674:7,18,22;675:19;676:18; 677:23;678:9;680:24; 683:12;685:14;687:1,22; 689:9,24;693:6,7,24;697:16,16,19,21;698:10,16;699:23; 700:8,10,13,21;703:12,19,23,24;704:7,13;707:1,13,23; 709:16;714:21,24;716:3,10,17,18,21,23;717:2,3,3,4,11,18;718:23;719:18,20; 720:13;721:16;722:6; 723:17,19;724:4,6,11,16; 725:2,7,11,14,16,19;728:9,17,20,22,23;729:1;731:5,5,7,24;732:10,15,16</p> <p><b>patients (84)</b> 533:1;536:9;603:14; 610:15,16,21,23;611:4,5,6,10,13,20;612:3,14,18,24; 613:11;616:22;617:2,10,13,16,20,23;618:2,6;628:3; 629:1,4,5,19,21;631:1,7; 632:5;637:8,8,13;639:6,12,15,15;640:19;646:6;647:24; 649:17;669:3;670:6,9,12,16,18,21;671:5,11;672:7;675:5,8;676:19;677:11,12,14; 681:8,8;688:9;689:4;690:8,17;700:1,4;702:7,10;708:7; 720:2,6;722:21,24;728:9; 730:18,19;731:1,18;732:3</p> <p><b>patient's (13)</b> 528:18;546:5,6;557:5; 574:6;583:9;596:17;607:6; 639:24;641:4;642:4;660:22; 680:16</p> <p><b>pattern (3)</b> 530:14;577:18,19</p> <p><b>pay (1)</b> 720:1</p> <p><b>PCP (4)</b> 593:19,20;594:19;595:10</p> <p><b>peculiar (2)</b> 719:14,15</p> <p><b>peer-reviewed (4)</b> 615:11;638:7,11;639:2</p> <p><b>pending (1)</b></p>
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726:8	581:23	732:24	23;677:13;681:10
<b>people (10)</b>	<b>physical (1)</b>	<b>point (17)</b>	<b>prednisolone (1)</b>
531:4,11;585:9;606:14; 630:15,17;683:3;691:17; 693:13;712:15	710:5	527:8;552:10;553:5,6,8; 565:2,4,6,13;587:19;592:16; 613:24;627:1;667:12;675:7; 712:11;721:6	576:9
<b>people's (1)</b>	<b>physically (1)</b>	<b>polyneuropathy (2)</b>	<b>prefer (4)</b>
609:15	635:4	531:13;554:24	608:18;683:3;706:21; 732:2
<b>per (8)</b>	<b>physician (12)</b>	<b>polysubstance (1)</b>	<b>preference (1)</b>
536:13;538:17,20;566:24; 586:6;588:22;617:15; 627:10	555:18;624:16;635:11; 654:17;678:11;700:4,9; 702:8;714:13,17;721:23; 722:3	630:18	597:22
<b>percent (6)</b>	<b>physicians (4)</b>	<b>pooling (1)</b>	<b>prehearing (1)</b>
538:19;578:2;579:24; 580:1,8;698:21	622:1;631:8;637:2;694:18	531:3	687:23
<b>Percocet (29)</b>	<b>physician's (1)</b>	<b>poor (2)</b>	<b>premise (1)</b>
542:1;543:10;544:2; 556:23;558:17;559:1; 572:21;573:8,11;574:2,3,20, 21;575:6,14;577:1;579:10; 582:11,14;583:1,5,16,20; 584:4;697:17;698:4,8,14; 699:4	693:10	572:7,14	652:23
<b>perfectly (2)</b>	<b>picture (1)</b>	<b>population (1)</b>	<b>prepared (2)</b>
717:7;719:16	546:12	616:16	730:15,17
<b>performance (1)</b>	<b>pictures (1)</b>	<b>portion (4)</b>	<b>prescribe (12)</b>
635:10	563:12	650:17;694:7;719:2,6	530:5;534:4;546:16; 574:19;582:13;584:3; 595:18;670:3;694:15;697:8, 11;708:5
<b>perhaps (5)</b>	<b>piece (4)</b>	<b>pose (13)</b>	<b>prescribed (49)</b>
551:11;597:4;673:23; 684:18;719:20	610:1;710:8,19;715:21	616:9;624:9;626:17; 629:15;634:5;641:18;647:3; 654:20;656:13,17;660:7; 661:10;705:2	529:4,4,5,7,9,20;530:6,9; 534:5;535:18,22;536:13; 539:6;541:23;542:3,4,20,21, 23;543:1,3,10;550:20; 554:12;568:16;571:10; 574:4;577:4;582:20;583:21; 587:8,9,10;588:5;590:10; 591:9,10,12;592:19;594:22; 595:6;694:14;698:11,11,16; 699:20,22;700:16;707:9
<b>pericallosal (1)</b>	<b>pill (1)</b>	<b>Poser (16)</b>	<b>prescribing (14)</b>
644:23	592:1	646:8,9,10,11,17;647:6, 21,22;648:6,12,21;649:3,5; 650:11,14,15	530:1,10;534:9;541:19; 551:4;574:1;583:1;588:8; 591:5;594:3;595:9;619:14; 635:1;729:10
<b>period (2)</b>	<b>pills (13)</b>	<b>positive (3)</b>	<b>prescription (40)</b>
539:23;636:18	530:7;542:2;543:10; 544:2;592:2;696:14;707:5, 6,6,7,8,10,12	674:14,20;675:19	529:10;538:21;542:16,22; 543:5,14,23;546:3,5,7,9; 550:9,13,16;553:14;556:22; 558:7,16;561:18;570:11,13; 574:3,23;575:7,16;577:18, 19;583:4;588:3;627:20; 628:17,18;634:15,18,21,22; 699:18;707:20;711:21; 712:4
<b>periodically (2)</b>	<b>Place (8)</b>	<b>possess (1)</b>	<b>prescriptions (21)</b>
579:1,2	526:5;646:7;647:1; 648:11;649:6,7;716:21,22	696:9	596:18;618:3,6;624:12, 13,17;626:9;627:3,6,10,19, 21;628:6,10,22;634:13; 635:4;693:3;696:13;697:12; 729:11
<b>peripheral (1)</b>	<b>places (1)</b>	<b>possession (2)</b>	<b>present (14)</b>
663:9	664:9	703:13;704:3	526:13;545:21;564:15; 612:1;613:20;616:23; 662:16;677:11;687:17; 696:15;702:16;730:18; 732:4,16
<b>persistent (1)</b>	<b>plan (23)</b>	<b>possibility (3)</b>	<b>presentations (1)</b>
531:11	528:4,6,12,12;529:9; 540:24;545:6;552:6;553:2, 9;561:17,17;569:16;570:5; 571:24;572:1;573:24; 578:23;583:15;597:10; 694:13,16;730:3	550:10;557:7;591:5	637:2
<b>person (4)</b>	<b>planning (6)</b>	<b>possible (10)</b>	<b>presented (3)</b>
617:7;659:19;669:20; 702:21	609:18;610:22;728:5,7; 729:4;731:24	549:2,9;550:23;552:20; 591:6;598:9;663:11,14; 701:23;702:2	666:17;673:6;695:17
<b>personal (2)</b>	<b>Plaquenil (1)</b>	<b>possibly (5)</b>	<b>presenting (2)</b>
628:2;632:18	685:21	529:22;570:8,8;583:16; 713:7	662:13;730:11
<b>personally (1)</b>	<b>play (1)</b>	<b>post-hearing (1)</b>	
665:23	678:21	702:5	
<b>perspective (1)</b>	<b>please (38)</b>	<b>potential (9)</b>	
608:2	544:1,1;548:15;560:19, 21;566:24;581:21;614:18; 621:8,13,15;638:9;640:23; 643:5,19,24;645:23;652:12; 654:6;658:10;662:10; 666:20;667:10;675:13; 679:17;681:2;682:22; 714:21;716:5,13;717:10,15; 718:1;720:20,21;721:15; 723:3;724:3	535:4;547:1;586:18; 587:6,12;607:14,14;650:2; 728:16	
<b>per-visit (1)</b>	<b>pledged (1)</b>	<b>potentially (8)</b>	
582:11	676:6	529:7;536:22;547:16; 554:16;570:11;613:2; 682:12,16	
<b>petitioner (2)</b>	<b>plus (1)</b>	<b>potentials (6)</b>	
526:7,11	630:18	649:9,12,15,22;650:4,18	
<b>petitioner's (1)</b>	<b>pm (1)</b>	<b>powerful (1)</b>	
607:13		552:17	
<b>pharmacist (1)</b>		<b>practice (14)</b>	
575:9		582:13;625:1;627:23; 632:18,24;636:10;652:2; 671:1;675:6;677:14;690:4; 691:2;692:24;700:2	
<b>pharmacy (3)</b>		<b>practicing (7)</b>	
543:24;574:21;693:4		647:15;671:19,23;676:21,	
<b>phone (5)</b>			
680:20;693:24;703:5,8,19			
<b>photocopies (1)</b>			
635:2			
<b>phrase (1)</b>			

<p><b>pressure (5)</b> 529:11,13,15,16,23 <b>Presumably (2)</b> 570:7;595:8 <b>presume (1)</b> 542:12 <b>Presumes (1)</b> 630:2 <b>presumption (4)</b> 551:19,21;574:5,10 <b>pretty (1)</b> 547:15 <b>prevent (1)</b> 663:15 <b>prevented (1)</b> 718:12 <b>previous (18)</b> 527:22;528:4;535:17; 561:3,6;563:4,8,19,23; 594:16,23;603:17,19; 635:10;687:12,13,16;708:1 <b>previously (20)</b> 527:19;552:24;553:22; 558:7,12;566:5;569:1; 571:21;578:15;579:20; 586:11,15;594:2,13,14; 616:23;647:8;697:18;698:2; 723:9 <b>primary (6)</b> 617:4;660:16,19;700:3,9; 702:8 <b>print (3)</b> 694:16;695:11,11 <b>printed (8)</b> 532:12,14;692:19;693:3; 695:15,16;696:18;710:18 <b>printing (2)</b> 532:14;668:16 <b>printout (10)</b> 532:21;668:1,17;670:1; 691:13;692:3,19;694:19; 695:10;696:16 <b>printouts (1)</b> 693:10 <b>prior (10)</b> 536:24;550:8;571:4; 573:23;594:17;598:13; 636:9;659:16;667:19;673:4 <b>priority (1)</b> 656:24 <b>private (1)</b> 575:3 <b>Privigen (6)</b> 537:1,2,3,4;538:16,18 <b>Probably (3)</b> 702:18;705:10;730:13 <b>problem (10)</b> 572:15;625:13;709:16; 716:20;717:7,9;719:18,24; 720:14;724:5 <b>problems (23)</b> 527:12,13,17,22,24; 534:19,20,21,22;541:5;</p>	<p>545:21;561:6,8,9;572:11; 578:15;585:14,14;587:14; 592:14;593:9;641:12;700:5 <b>procedural (5)</b> 597:20;685:10;706:23,23; 726:1 <b>procedurally (1)</b> 726:6 <b>procedures (1)</b> 636:11 <b>proceed (3)</b> 610:9;614:18;633:4 <b>proceeding (2)</b> 666:14;696:6 <b>proceedings (2)</b> 608:21;732:23 <b>process (4)</b> 536:10;553:22;554:3; 558:11 <b>produced (1)</b> 531:3 <b>products (1)</b> 534:2 <b>professional (7)</b> 630:9;642:12;673:11,13, 19;678:13;710:16 <b>professionals (3)</b> 629:24;630:4;710:6 <b>profile (7)</b> 635:15;704:17,23;705:3, 9,21;706:2 <b>progress (30)</b> 527:24;540:1;557:3; 567:11,13,19;572:8;573:17, 21;574:11;576:4,6;590:4,6; 596:15;687:11;709:9;710:1, 3,10,20,22;712:3;714:17; 715:9,11,11,15,21,23 <b>progressive (2)</b> 660:16,20 <b>progressively (1)</b> 660:18 <b>prolong (1)</b> 612:8 <b>pronator (1)</b> 586:7 <b>pronouncing (2)</b> 533:12,15 <b>proper (7)</b> 535:7;546:17,17,18; 583:15;632:1,7 <b>propose (3)</b> 580:19;584:9;611:22 <b>Proposed (5)</b> 598:4,11;599:3;604:17; 607:24 <b>proposing (1)</b> 606:9 <b>protecting (1)</b> 574:6 <b>protects (2)</b> 553:23,24 <b>protocols (3)</b></p>	<p>670:9,16,21 <b>Protonix (4)</b> 573:8,11;574:4;576:23 <b>prove (3)</b> 605:17,18;611:1 <b>proved (1)</b> 729:17 <b>provide (8)</b> 535:7;546:10;617:14; 638:6,10;679:1;694:4; 700:10 <b>provided (16)</b> 532:21;540:14,15;543:8; 556:24;557:17,23;558:2,5,6; 567:8;612:14,18;685:11; 700:7;725:10 <b>provider (2)</b> 533:2;589:23 <b>providers (1)</b> 670:1 <b>proving (1)</b> 610:3 <b>psychiatrist (1)</b> 703:1 <b>published (4)</b> 615:10;664:3,7,10 <b>PubMed (1)</b> 663:17 <b>pull (2)</b> 633:24;684:19 <b>pulled (2)</b> 682:17;684:18 <b>purpose (1)</b> 543:4 <b>purposes (7)</b> 540:4;641:20;667:23; 695:3,4,5;696:6 <b>put (14)</b> 532:15;559:12;563:9; 572:24;574:17;595:23; 693:15,22,23;694:3,5,17; 721:9;729:16</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>R</b></p> <p><b>RA (1)</b> 677:23 <b>radical (1)</b> 593:24 <b>radiologic (1)</b> 657:6 <b>radiological (2)</b> 638:4;643:14 <b>radiologist (3)</b> 639:18;643:15;644:2 <b>radiologists (1)</b> 637:7 <b>radiologist's (1)</b> 637:15 <b>Radiology (2)</b> 638:3;639:17 <b>raise (3)</b> 559:15;717:5,8 <b>raised (4)</b> 716:9,14;718:8,18 <b>raises (1)</b> 720:13 <b>Ranging (1)</b> 548:22 <b>Rarely (2)</b> 697:9,11 <b>rate (2)</b> 557:7;677:22 <b>rather (5)</b> 551:17;632:18;647:3; 656:14;729:24 <b>rationale (1)</b> 558:15 <b>re- (1)</b> 607:14 <b>reached (1)</b> 728:11 <b>reaction (3)</b> 545:23;562:8;571:13 <b>reactions (2)</b> 533:3,5 <b>read (10)</b> 570:24;603:3,22;636:24; 658:4,5;717:15;718:12; 721:1;725:4 <b>reading (9)</b> 606:16;620:14;636:3; 657:18,23;658:3;675:20; 718:12;721:11 <b>ready (7)</b> 526:15,17;589:18;614:15; 653:11;687:8;716:6 <b>realize (1)</b> 681:22 <b>really (6)</b> 534:3;541:12;543:16; 563:10;580:11;640:15 <b>reason (7)</b> 539:1;542:15,21,24; 576:3;633:2;706:17</p>
<b>Q</b>			
<p><b>qualified (4)</b> 627:22;636:24;642:14; 678:12 <b>quick (2)</b> 585:12;726:6 <b>quickly (2)</b> 585:5;587:21 <b>quite (5)</b> 529:1;534:3;596:21; 647:16;656:4 <b>quote (6)</b> 553:16;585:2,4;633:22; 643:15;660:23 <b>quote/unquote (1)</b> 553:19 <b>quoting (2)</b> 661:4;662:5</p>			

<p><b>reasonable (11)</b> 541:7;546:2,4,16;547:3; 550:2;582:7;605:19;673:15; 717:7;719:16</p> <p><b>reasoning (2)</b> 594:10,11</p> <p><b>reasons (5)</b> 558:7;586:10;609:16; 610:12;687:23</p> <p><b>rebut (6)</b> 605:11;729:15,18;730:1, 2,2</p> <p><b>recall (16)</b> 532:4;548:7;561:3; 567:18,19;633:10;643:17; 650:10,12;651:6;653:3; 675:3;678:7;698:3;704:7; 725:19</p> <p><b>receive (3)</b> 570:15;575:6;615:1</p> <p><b>received (12)</b> 527:9;539:8;553:4;565:6; 579:7,12;610:9;611:14,20; 665:18;674:1;728:8</p> <p><b>receiving (8)</b> 533:2;553:11,13;561:10; 578:21;585:22;586:17; 593:10</p> <p><b>Recess (3)</b> 584:11;614:8;683:8</p> <p><b>recipients (1)</b> 612:5</p> <p><b>recite (1)</b> 654:1</p> <p><b>recognize (1)</b> 620:3</p> <p><b>recommend (2)</b> 612:11;613:7</p> <p><b>recommendations (1)</b> 638:22</p> <p><b>recommended (4)</b> 533:4;684:17;686:20,21</p> <p><b>reconsidered (1)</b> 634:4</p> <p><b>record (128)</b> 526:24;534:8,13;535:10; 536:22;537:19,23;538:2; 539:5,13,15,16,17;544:5,8; 549:23;551:8;552:1;555:7, 23;556:7,11,16;557:16; 558:22;559:1,3;560:2,17,20; 563:4,19;564:1,3,9;565:4; 566:7,8,12;568:2,4;570:18; 572:24;573:4;574:17;576:4, 6,12,13,17,21;577:10,11; 580:13,23;582:9;584:10,18; 589:14;590:13,21;591:8,8, 16;592:4,17,20;614:7,10; 615:9;623:10;625:16; 633:24;643:19,20;659:6,12; 661:3;674:4;675:13;679:16, 18,20,22;683:7,10;685:15; 687:16,22,24;688:23;689:3;</p>	<p>690:22,24;691:5,9,10,14,21; 692:16,18,22;693:14,16; 694:20;695:2,10,13,18; 696:9;703:12,18,20;704:2,6, 11;715:19;716:1;720:24; 721:10;723:5;724:13,18,22; 725:1,10;726:5;732:22</p> <p><b>recording (2)</b> 614:13;693:10</p> <p><b>records (59)</b> 527:2;539:19;550:15; 556:13;558:1,18;559:21; 569:8;570:14;575:24; 577:18;595:20,22;596:18; 623:13;624:19;628:2;634:4; 635:7,9,10,13;658:20;659:4, 14,15,16;673:24;675:16; 678:22;679:1,11,12,24; 680:1,12,12,14,14,15,20,21; 681:23;682:10,18;684:6,17; 688:7,8,16;691:18,23;699:2, 3,6,19;707:23;725:4,15</p> <p><b>red (12)</b> 716:9,14;717:8;718:8,18, 24;719:2,4,19,23;722:14,16</p> <p><b>redacted (1)</b> 726:11</p> <p><b>reduces (1)</b> 571:14</p> <p><b>reevaluate (1)</b> 578:24</p> <p><b>re-faxed (1)</b> 607:10</p> <p><b>refer (7)</b> 629:24;631:7,15,18; 668:7;678:3,8</p> <p><b>reference (9)</b> 550:4;624:20;631:11; 638:13;649:4,5;652:9; 667:9;687:11</p> <p><b>referenced (4)</b> 620:11;623:7,24;704:4</p> <p><b>referencing (2)</b> 621:20;687:12</p> <p><b>referral (3)</b> 595:12;716:23,24</p> <p><b>referred (4)</b> 554:3;611:15;716:17,20</p> <p><b>referring (8)</b> 532:5;571:8;594:19,20; 595:10;627:24;694:1,17</p> <p><b>refers (6)</b> 540:22;541:8,9;553:21; 554:12;576:8</p> <p><b>refill (32)</b> 553:18;554:11,14;708:2, 8,8,11,20,23;709:2,10,19; 711:1,4,10,12,15,18,21; 712:4,21,23;713:6,12,13,19, 21,23;714:5,12,13,18</p> <p><b>refills (2)</b> 530:7;592:3</p> <p><b>reflexes (1)</b></p>	<p>694:10</p> <p><b>reformat (1)</b> 627:17</p> <p><b>regarding (4)</b> 579:21;608:9;635:10; 657:8</p> <p><b>regards (11)</b> 541:17,18;567:10;577:22; 596:16;634:13,24;637:8; 673:2;709:13;710:15</p> <p><b>regime (6)</b> 577:15;578:1,7,24;579:5; 593:8</p> <p><b>regimen (1)</b> 578:8</p> <p><b>region (3)</b> 644:10,21,23</p> <p><b>Registration (12)</b> 526:8;599:5,14,20; 612:10,12;613:6,9,23; 631:22;729:12;730:16</p> <p><b>regular (10)</b> 550:17;578:11;586:19; 595:2;636:12;637:5,7; 655:17;681:9;711:9</p> <p><b>regularly (2)</b> 636:17;637:12</p> <p><b>regulation (8)</b> 619:11;621:20;622:14; 624:15;625:2;628:14,20; 705:4</p> <p><b>regulations (7)</b> 618:19,24,24;619:8,9; 624:6,11</p> <p><b>reissued (1)</b> 539:1</p> <p><b>reject (1)</b> 650:7</p> <p><b>relate (6)</b> 529:15,19;545:8;662:13, 14;692:7</p> <p><b>related (14)</b> 569:14;585:17;603:17; 628:2;649:24;657:24;661:2, 3,14,15,17;676:13,14; 710:14</p> <p><b>relates (5)</b> 558:10;570:7;578:19; 603:18,19</p> <p><b>relationship (1)</b> 662:2</p> <p><b>relative (12)</b> 537:20;557:11;563:20,24; 567:7;573:15;601:22;608:2, 7;612:24;613:2,3</p> <p><b>release (1)</b> 597:20</p> <p><b>relevance (17)</b> 559:12;600:15;601:21; 602:5;603:6;604:6;605:3,4, 6,7,8,14;606:1,11;607:15, 16;608:15</p> <p><b>relevant (8)</b></p>	<p>604:4,17;606:18;608:4; 612:8;688:1;689:5,6</p> <p><b>reliable (1)</b> 665:14</p> <p><b>relief (3)</b> 527:10;536:21;587:21</p> <p><b>relieve (1)</b> 536:4</p> <p><b>rely (2)</b> 729:19,24</p> <p><b>remainder (2)</b> 596:15;683:15</p> <p><b>remaining (2)</b> 696:15,19</p> <p><b>remains (4)</b> 567:13;586:6,20;588:22</p> <p><b>remember (18)</b> 555:4;556:4;564:3;621:7; 642:23;643:1,2;652:23; 653:1,2;656:5;657:2; 672:12;690:6,20;704:11; 707:24;725:18</p> <p><b>remembering (1)</b> 564:23</p> <p><b>remembers (1)</b> 653:19</p> <p><b>remind (2)</b> 526:19;726:17</p> <p><b>reminding (1)</b> 620:7</p> <p><b>remissions (7)</b> 658:17,23;659:7,20; 660:13,15,17</p> <p><b>renal (2)</b> 533:22,23</p> <p><b>render (1)</b> 627:22</p> <p><b>rendered (2)</b> 709:5,12</p> <p><b>renew (3)</b> 705:23,24;706:4</p> <p><b>renewed (3)</b> 618:9;619:6;706:1</p> <p><b>repeat (11)</b> 537:14;557:21;581:21; 621:13,23;638:9;643:24; 645:23;652:12;668:15; 671:9</p> <p><b>repeatedly (1)</b> 645:7</p> <p><b>repetitive (3)</b> 680:15,19;682:15</p> <p><b>rephrase (2)</b> 627:13;684:3</p> <p><b>report (16)</b> 557:2;562:20;566:22; 568:5;570:17;571:1,1, 584:19;599:11;637:16; 643:21,21;644:11,17;661:4, 5</p> <p><b>Reporter (2)</b> 573:9;657:11</p> <p><b>reporting (5)</b></p>
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527:10;545:16;549:24,24; 551:1	<b>response (5)</b> 571:6;585:23;634:24; 643:13;722:9	<b>revision (1)</b> 652:3	627:6,19
<b>reports (4)</b> 607:19,21;636:17;643:14	<b>responsibilities (1)</b> 654:17	<b>revisions (2)</b> 651:8,11	<b>rule (12)</b> 550:9;555:12;639:16,17; 640:15;671:4,10;676:7; 677:15,17;678:2,6
<b>representation (1)</b> 667:2	<b>responsible (1)</b> 683:21	<b>revisit (1)</b> 605:6	<b>ruled (1)</b> 678:11
<b>representative (1)</b> 666:6	<b>rest (2)</b> 718:12,15	<b>revs (1)</b> 571:15	<b>ruling (4)</b> 597:8;612:6;676:15; 686:11
<b>representatives (1)</b> 526:12	<b>restate (1)</b> 666:15	<b>Rheumatoid (1)</b> 554:8	<b>running (1)</b> 614:11
<b>represents (2)</b> 526:11,12	<b>resting (1)</b> 729:5	<b>rheumatologic (10)</b> 531:20;547:24;548:2; 555:16;595:14;672:7; 674:18,21;675:17,22	<b>Ruth (1)</b> 557:3
<b>request (1)</b> 635:14	<b>result (10)</b> 536:21;589:9;654:16; 655:2,3,5,7,12;676:20;715:6	<b>rheumatological (9)</b> 547:17,21;554:15;555:4; 671:5,11,14,18;681:9	<b>S</b>
<b>requested (1)</b> 635:13	<b>results (3)</b> 654:22,24;655:18	<b>rheumatologist (8)</b> 547:20,23;555:3;594:19; 595:13;678:1,4,9	<b>sagittal (14)</b> 639:6,8,12,14,19,20; 640:1,7,12,21;642:1,6,7; 644:2
<b>requesting (1)</b> 554:14	<b>resume (4)</b> 526:15;530:17;614:5; 732:20	<b>Rheumatology (2)</b> 593:21;595:11	<b>same (23)</b> 538:24;551:12;559:15,19, 22;562:12;582:9;587:19; 599:15;611:15,20,20;626:9; 627:3;628:16;669:15; 679:19;681:3,4;698:5,15; 710:7,13
<b>requests (2)</b> 602:1;635:12	<b>RESUMED (1)</b> 526:22	<b>Rhode (4)</b> 615:14,23;616:4,15	<b>San (1)</b> 655:4
<b>require (2)</b> 541:11;707:11	<b>resync (3)</b> 530:4,11,15	<b>Richard (4)</b> 529:11;540:6;541:20; 572:4	<b>satisfies (1)</b> 648:16
<b>required (3)</b> 552:23;571:16;619:13	<b>resynchronize (1)</b> 530:13	<b>right (27)</b> 528:8;532:2;535:18; 543:12;564:12,17;572:5,13; 575:19;590:23;597:18,19; 599:24;616:24;623:16; 626:14,19;632:1;642:16; 656:15;672:12,18;685:13; 686:23;688:9;693:20;705:2	<b>satisfy (3)</b> 619:14;652:16;663:5
<b>requirement (4)</b> 619:2,14;622:7;624:16	<b>retained (1)</b> 614:22	<b>RIS (4)</b> 657:3,5,8,15	<b>saw (5)</b> 563:5;569:7;690:6; 699:18;716:11
<b>requirements (3)</b> 618:11,14;619:5	<b>retract (5)</b> 646:3;668:20;697:2; 698:12,17	<b>Rituximab (2)</b> 670:13,16	<b>saying (10)</b> 530:3;545:17;548:13; 571:10,11;574:20;613:1; 630:3;704:12;714:18
<b>requires (2)</b> 653:14;679:19	<b>retracting (4)</b> 644:7;645:15,22;659:22	<b>River (4)</b> 704:1;717:20;718:6;719:7	<b>scan (1)</b> 588:11
<b>reraise (1)</b> 605:3	<b>return (3)</b> 663:15;703:7;707:1	<b>RM-14-436 (1)</b> 526:7	<b>scans (2)</b> 636:12;639:5
<b>research (1)</b> 657:15	<b>returning (1)</b> 593:19	<b>RN (1)</b> 557:4	<b>schedule (1)</b> 613:20
<b>reserve (2)</b> 608:6,12	<b>review (36)</b> 531:22;540:10;548:7; 550:15;551:8;553:11; 556:23;568:3;584:13,15; 592:22;593:12;614:3;615:2; 624:20;634:1;635:13;637:6, 10,13;657:14;667:23; 678:22;679:12,14;682:10; 690:16;694:4,5;699:7,14; 701:17;704:6;706:2;725:1,3	<b>RNP (1)</b> 676:12	<b>scheduled (1)</b> 722:7
<b>residency (1)</b> 636:10	<b>reviewed (22)</b> 527:2;539:19;540:12; 548:4;552:1;556:13;560:22; 568:5;571:1;577:11;584:19; 593:1;643:14;646:10; 673:24;692:4;699:2,7; 724:13,18,22;725:15	<b>role (1)</b> 678:20	<b>scheduling (2)</b> 706:22;726:7
<b>resident (1)</b> 671:8	<b>Reviewing (12)</b> 527:7;570:14;618:18,23; 636:17;644:11;655:8;668:1, 16;674:1;680:13;689:23	<b>Romain (3)</b> 555:9,12,13	<b>Schumacher (7)</b> 646:12,17,19,21;647:7,9, 21
<b>residents (1)</b> 655:17	<b>revise (1)</b> 711:21	<b>room (5)</b> 543:20;557:15;575:5; 614:14;731:20	<b>scientific (2)</b> 615:11;658:17
<b>resources (1)</b> 612:9	<b>revised (3)</b> 651:5,6;726:9	<b>roots (1)</b> 531:9	<b>sclerosis (8)</b> 587:10;604:24;646:4; 647:11,13;648:3;653:7; 664:5
<b>respiratory (1)</b> 710:12		<b>routine (13)</b> 543:14;544:22;575:1,11; 639:11;709:19;711:15,20; 712:3,21,23;714:13,18	<b>screen (3)</b> 631:3,3;672:7
<b>respond (2)</b> 660:11;668:13		<b>routinely (2)</b> 670:5,12	<b>screening (1)</b>
<b>responded (3)</b> 541:7;544:10;546:1		<b>row (2)</b>	
<b>respondent (1)</b> 526:8			
<b>Respondent's (31)</b> 598:4,6,11;599:1,3,16,18; 600:3,7;601:2,4,11;602:8, 11,14,17,18;603:10,12; 604:13,14;606:3;607:24; 608:17;609:2,4,9,12;726:17, 24;727:17			
<b>responding (2)</b> 546:14;620:21			
<b>responds (1)</b> 593:6			

672:9 <b>scripts (1)</b> 627:23 <b>se (2)</b> 536:13;617:15 <b>second (17)</b> 538:13;555:8;587:11; 625:23;626:5;628:16; 634:22,23;637:14;640:5,11; 656:12;657:1;667:13; 674:10;683:15;703:4 <b>Section (11)</b> 619:18,24;621:6;622:1; 624:3,21;694:8,11,13,17; 707:2 <b>sections (1)</b> 694:11 <b>sedation (1)</b> 529:2 <b>sedimentation (1)</b> 677:22 <b>seeing (10)</b> 528:2;549:23;567:18,19; 620:18,22;636:17;637:9; 664:1;725:19 <b>seeking (1)</b> 622:15 <b>seem (7)</b> 633:15,16;638:18;639:4; 651:23;675:15;699:20 <b>seemed (1)</b> 674:1 <b>seems (2)</b> 582:10;595:12 <b>select (1)</b> 616:15 <b>send (4)</b> 544:1;567:1;705:11,15 <b>sending (1)</b> 594:18 <b>sense (2)</b> 562:1;700:15 <b>sensory (2)</b> 650:5;694:9 <b>sent (4)</b> 588:10;624:18;693:3; 705:13 <b>sentence (6)</b> 581:11;717:16;718:13,15; 720:9,22 <b>sentences (1)</b> 715:10 <b>separate (9)</b> 626:8;693:15;694:6,8,11, 11,13,21;698:12 <b>separated (3)</b> 646:7,24;648:11 <b>September (1)</b> 601:16 <b>sequence (4)</b> 639:7;640:3;642:6,7 <b>sequences (2)</b> 639:9;643:3	<b>series (1)</b> 620:3 <b>serious (9)</b> 531:5,19;533:7;578:10; 587:6,12,13,13;676:8 <b>serve (3)</b> 616:11,15;642:11 <b>Service (2)</b> 526:5;731:20 <b>services (1)</b> 598:17 <b>set (2)</b> 563:23;695:1 <b>seven (6)</b> 548:19;600:5;636:8; 707:5,8,11 <b>several (3)</b> 594:4;596:21;711:16 <b>severe (23)</b> 531:11,17;532:3;533:5, 24;534:1,1,4,22,24;535:4; 631:9,14;702:7,10,13,23; 722:22,24;723:11,13,18; 725:17 <b>shall (2)</b> 613:20;621:23 <b>sharp (2)</b> 585:8,12 <b>sheets (2)</b> 567:20;694:22 <b>shooting (1)</b> 578:4 <b>short (1)</b> 601:1 <b>shorter-acting (1)</b> 698:20 <b>shots (2)</b> 564:3,24 <b>shoulder (2)</b> 562:1;587:20 <b>shouted (1)</b> 607:5 <b>show (5)</b> 555:23;588:10;591:23; 609:21;689:8 <b>showing (1)</b> 579:4 <b>shown (2)</b> 589:23;666:5 <b>shows (4)</b> 576:14;632:8;644:2; 705:21 <b>sic (2)</b> 526:7;718:4 <b>side (58)</b> 528:24;529:16;531:24; 532:2,4,5;533:4,6,20; 534:10,16,18,24;535:4,5,21; 545:23;547:2,5,8,9;549:2,5, 5,9,12,16,20,21;550:11; 551:1;560:11,14;561:20,20; 562:3,3,7,9,22;563:6;564:4, 10,24;570:4;572:16,18;	574:8;578:9,10;586:18; 587:6,12,20;588:2,9;590:11, 21 <b>sides (1)</b> 564:23 <b>sign (1)</b> 632:8 <b>signal (1)</b> 654:8 <b>signature (1)</b> 542:10 <b>signed (5)</b> 540:2,6;542:8;551:18; 601:15 <b>significant (7)</b> 529:1;560:11;574:8; 578:9;582:18;651:20; 720:14 <b>signify (1)</b> 715:22 <b>signs (4)</b> 533:3;557:6;694:6;717:2 <b>similar (3)</b> 627:16;677:12;691:23 <b>similarly (1)</b> 616:5 <b>simple (2)</b> 683:24;684:13 <b>simply (1)</b> 693:14 <b>single (6)</b> 528:2,2;664:9;679:10,10; 689:8 <b>sister (2)</b> 674:16,19 <b>sitting (1)</b> 529:12 <b>six (11)</b> 552:16;553:3;562:21; 564:9;695:11,16;696:18; 700:13;707:4,8,11 <b>six-page (2)</b> 695:1,9 <b>sixth (3)</b> 731:13;732:9,17 <b>skin (1)</b> 677:20 <b>slash (1)</b> 572:6 <b>Slattery (1)</b> 601:14 <b>SLE (1)</b> 677:7 <b>sleep (5)</b> 527:21;528:23;530:1,17; 539:6 <b>sleeping (3)</b> 528:15;529:21;530:13 <b>sleepy (1)</b> 527:10 <b>Sloan (1)</b> 601:14 <b>SM (1)</b>	676:12 <b>societies (1)</b> 638:4 <b>Society (8)</b> 615:14,23,24;616:3,14; 637:18,23;638:2 <b>Solumedrol (29)</b> 558:22;561:10;568:10,17, 18;570:9;571:5,9;572:3; 573:7,10,20,22,23;574:7,7; 576:8,23;577:16;578:3,10; 580:10;581:1;585:23; 586:19,22;587:16;593:6; 594:24 <b>solution (1)</b> 538:20 <b>somatic (1)</b> 702:18 <b>somatosensory (2)</b> 649:14;650:4 <b>Somebody (4)</b> 630:22;705:12;720:11; 723:11 <b>someone (9)</b> 530:8;555:19;633:8; 662:13;672:10,20;675:2; 677:9;684:18 <b>Sometime (1)</b> 615:3 <b>Sometimes (11)</b> 554:1;587:9;630:1; 637:11,12;682:12;692:5,5,8; 723:1,14 <b>Somnote (4)</b> 528:14,14;530:3,8 <b>son (2)</b> 719:11;724:1 <b>sorry (23)</b> 531:24;537:21;548:6; 556:1;564:24;586:12; 592:23;604:9;613:4;618:20; 621:10;623:2,17,21;625:21; 626:13;658:11;659:13; 695:14;704:22;715:1,4; 717:13 <b>sort (1)</b> 545:9 <b>sorting (1)</b> 689:9 <b>source (8)</b> 532:18;665:9,12,14,16,19; 673:11,16 <b>space (1)</b> 648:19 <b>spacey (2)</b> 585:8,10 <b>spasm (4)</b> 527:20;578:5;581:12,17 <b>spasms (2)</b> 530:23;537:8 <b>spasticity (4)</b> 700:20,22;701:13,20 <b>speak (2)</b>
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<p>619:11;693:16 <b>speaking (2)</b> 647:20;688:6 <b>spec (1)</b> 712:21 <b>specialist (2)</b> 629:3,13 <b>specialists (3)</b> 629:18;632:3;664:12 <b>specialized (1)</b> 632:4 <b>specialties (1)</b> 546:23 <b>specific (31)</b> 534:6;550:4;565:18,20; 568:12;569:17;577:22; 578:19;585:22;587:23; 602:3;616:8;624:4,14; 639:8;643:5;646:15;649:2; 650:13;652:8,16,20;653:13, 15,24;662:13;673:21; 681:17;691:21;693:19; 710:24 <b>specifically (23)</b> 536:19;548:1;555:14; 562:22;563:15;568:15; 570:10;571:7;580:6;588:1; 618:24;619:10;621:6; 627:23;629:7;633:18;640:9; 645:6;649:23;657:16;678:7; 692:7;713:20 <b>specifics (3)</b> 563:11;579:5;632:12 <b>specify (2)</b> 567:9;588:19 <b>specifying (1)</b> 570:1 <b>specs (1)</b> 666:19 <b>speculate (1)</b> 712:8 <b>speech (1)</b> 710:6 <b>spend (3)</b> 657:18,23;658:2 <b>spent (2)</b> 618:17,22 <b>spinal (2)</b> 531:10;650:19 <b>spine (1)</b> 572:6 <b>spoke (1)</b> 558:3 <b>spots (3)</b> 562:21;564:9;587:21 <b>stable (1)</b> 557:6 <b>staff (2)</b> 598:17;637:3 <b>staggered (2)</b> 581:1;586:22 <b>staggering (2)</b> 577:16;581:6</p>	<p><b>stamps (1)</b> 692:11 <b>stand (1)</b> 657:5 <b>standalone (1)</b> 687:11 <b>standard (106)</b> 527:5,17;534:8;539:21; 540:15;546:8,10;550:19; 551:5,9;552:2;557:1,24; 558:5,8,13,19;560:23; 562:15,20;563:1,2,7,16; 565:12,17,19;566:18;567:2, 5,14,15;568:6,23;569:3,16, 20;570:12,20;571:2,19; 572:9,20;573:13;577:12; 578:13,22;581:14;583:19; 584:2,17,20;586:3,10;587:1, 5,22;588:18;593:2;602:18; 611:1,16,17,19;612:15; 620:14;632:17,20;648:2,4,6, 8,13,14;671:19,22;672:2,8; 676:11,19,22;677:1;678:13; 680:8;687:13;708:14,15,18, 20;709:2,6,7,11,13,14; 710:9,10,13,17;711:11,13, 14,17;712:22;713:11,19 <b>standards (3)</b> 666:21,22,24 <b>stands (4)</b> 537:15;619:11;642:21; 701:7 <b>start (9)</b> 538:20;557:21;626:9; 627:4;628:17,18;672:17; 685:21;706:12 <b>started (1)</b> 628:9 <b>starts (1)</b> 727:4 <b>state (16)</b> 550:5,22;556:24;584:16; 593:6,8,9;616:4;619:9; 621:18,23;634:10;652:11; 657:7;684:18;719:20 <b>stated (13)</b> 595:13;619:20;631:2,5; 633:16;652:12;653:5; 658:14;698:10;701:16,16; 718:7;719:9 <b>state-mandated (1)</b> 621:5 <b>statement (55)</b> 541:1;545:24;552:11,14; 569:15;573:23;580:9; 593:16;601:23;603:1,3,14; 604:21;605:9,15,16;608:4; 610:16;611:2,7,11;612:19, 20;613:12,16;619:23; 620:16;633:14;644:7,18; 645:13,15,24;646:3;647:4; 656:14;658:18,21,24;659:5, 22;660:9,10;661:3;668:20;</p>	<p>672:5;676:3;697:2,23; 698:3,13,17;714:1,3;729:10 <b>statements (1)</b> 705:3 <b>states (12)</b> 557:14;562:21;566:23; 577:23;634:8;653:23; 703:23;704:18;715:21; 718:3;720:9;724:15 <b>stating (5)</b> 542:7;558:3;594:6;653:3; 675:21 <b>status (5)</b> 586:6;588:21;589:3,5; 694:9 <b>stay (3)</b> 597:16;598:1;697:24 <b>staying (2)</b> 530:14;717:10 <b>stem (3)</b> 649:11;650:2,3 <b>step (1)</b> 597:16 <b>Stephan (1)</b> 606:13 <b>steroid (1)</b> 536:18 <b>stiffness (1)</b> 578:3 <b>still (15)</b> 526:20;568:11;575:22; 578:4;580:22;581:12; 605:19;607:2,15;648:14; 665:17;691:18;710:13; 726:5;728:5 <b>stock (1)</b> 542:8 <b>stomach (2)</b> 574:6,8 <b>stop (8)</b> 584:23;631:24;672:11,18; 702:2;706:18;724:9;725:24 <b>stopped (1)</b> 595:4 <b>Stout (1)</b> 593:20 <b>strange (4)</b> 718:19;723:22,24;724:2 <b>strike (1)</b> 606:8 <b>string (1)</b> 606:10 <b>stroke (1)</b> 533:8 <b>strong (1)</b> 531:3 <b>strongly (3)</b> 578:1;674:20;675:19 <b>structure (1)</b> 691:4 <b>student (1)</b> 585:8 <b>students (1)</b></p>	<p>655:17 <b>studied (3)</b> 646:8;650:21,24 <b>studies (8)</b> 555:22,22;556:1;650:8, 16,19;672:6;677:22 <b>study (3)</b> 640:2;655:3;664:4 <b>subcutaneously (2)</b> 579:10;586:3 <b>subject (4)</b> 608:19;653:17,20;732:5 <b>subjective (2)</b> 568:19;579:23 <b>submit (4)</b> 612:10,12;613:5,14 <b>submitted (1)</b> 729:22 <b>submitting (1)</b> 679:3 <b>Subsequent (1)</b> 628:5 <b>subsequently (1)</b> 682:17 <b>subset (1)</b> 681:7 <b>subspecialty (1)</b> 615:6 <b>substance (14)</b> 627:7,21;628:15;629:2,4, 6,8;630:1,10,11,15,16; 711:20;729:12 <b>substances (7)</b> 628:4,11;630:18,23; 708:7;717:5;719:22 <b>substandard (1)</b> 612:18 <b>substantive (1)</b> 685:20 <b>substitute (1)</b> 705:14 <b>suddenly (1)</b> 595:4 <b>suffer (3)</b> 617:21;629:21;630:17 <b>suffering (3)</b> 629:1;630:14;723:20 <b>sufficient (11)</b> 581:20;582:1,5;642:11, 13,18;666:13;667:21,24; 674:2;699:8 <b>suggest (4)</b> 641:7;650:16;677:19; 725:23 <b>suggestive (4)</b> 674:16,18;675:21,21 <b>suggests (1)</b> 538:15 <b>Sullivan (1)</b> 601:16 <b>summarize (1)</b> 595:23 <b>summary (2)</b></p>
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601:24;715:6 <b>superior (2)</b> 605:17;610:24 <b>supplied (1)</b> 634:13 <b>supply (13)</b> 628:15;633:12,13,17,21, 23;634:17,19,20,22,24; 635:1;673:7 <b>support (2)</b> 658:18;672:4 <b>Suppose (1)</b> 631:13 <b>supposed (2)</b> 543:8;713:12 <b>Supposing (2)</b> 632:13;640:4 <b>suppressed (1)</b> 586:21 <b>supratentorial (1)</b> 645:1 <b>Supreme (2)</b> 631:23;634:6 <b>sure (25)</b> 540:23;541:9;553:17; 554:10;585:6;596:1;599:24; 601:18;608:14;611:2; 616:13;622:13,14;651:5,7, 17;652:6;674:23,24;675:10; 689:1;693:7;695:8;698:21; 699:24 <b>surprise (1)</b> 672:18 <b>surprised (2)</b> 547:8;672:10 <b>surrounding (1)</b> 644:21 <b>suspect (1)</b> 621:1 <b>suspended (1)</b> 732:24 <b>suspension (1)</b> 601:24 <b>suspicious (3)</b> 529:14;677:23;678:3 <b>Sustained (1)</b> 705:17 <b>Swanton (13)</b> 663:18,21,22,23;664:1,1, 3,6,7,10,14,20;665:5 <b>swaying (2)</b> 572:5,13 <b>sweating (1)</b> 702:19 <b>sworn (1)</b> 705:1 <b>symptom (4)</b> 545:11;662:14,14,21 <b>symptoms (35)</b> 533:3;540:19,20;545:9,9, 12,18;546:5;552:8,10,13; 568:10,12,13,22,23;571:20; 572:12,14;578:2;579:24;	580:1,7,7,9;585:16,21; 702:18,19;722:18,24;723:2, 11,18,19 <b>syndrome (2)</b> 617:11;657:6 <b>system (12)</b> 554:19;649:22;650:18; 654:11;690:24;691:1,9,14; 693:21;694:20;695:10; 706:3 <b>systemic (9)</b> 540:19;545:8,9,12,18; 555:15;578:17;594:3;677:8 <b>systems (6)</b> 690:22;691:5,10,18; 694:5,5	601:5 <b>terms (11)</b> 541:15;549:2;558:13; 563:11;578:23;583:6; 606:15;656:20;661:24; 702:21;719:21 <b>test (12)</b> 589:5;672:2,22;673:1,17, 22;674:3,5,20;676:23; 679:11;685:21 <b>testified (30)</b> 619:16;620:8;622:9; 626:7,15,22;632:20;635:3, 22;644:1;652:8,19;653:18; 668:2,4,10,19;683:17; 685:24;689:3,14;692:2; 696:3;699:9;707:15;712:15; 716:8;718:17;724:21;725:9 <b>testifies (1)</b> 608:23 <b>testify (24)</b> 611:8,14;613:2;614:23; 624:24;627:2;635:8;638:23; 667:19;669:4,10;678:19; 698:23;699:1;701:6;705:1; 711:19;712:2,11;729:14,15; 730:15,18;732:3 <b>testifying (13)</b> 559:17;604:18;605:7,9; 614:1;642:17;647:11; 652:24;653:19;710:15; 712:7,7;730:3 <b>testimony (35)</b> 526:15;605:11,13;606:15, 19;607:22;608:18,18; 611:16;612:7;613:11,14,24; 620:9;627:2;633:11;645:6; 652:13;664:18;666:17; 668:7,9;679:1,2;690:2; 696:8;699:14;701:23; 718:20;721:4;730:1,3,6; 732:5,13 <b>testing (1)</b> 589:3 <b>tests (17)</b> 586:7;588:14,15,16,17,19, 20,22,23;589:2,7;649:19; 650:7,11;672:9;678:6;680:2 <b>textbook (1)</b> 532:13 <b>thankfully (1)</b> 676:4 <b>theory (1)</b> 608:3 <b>therapies (2)</b> 571:6,7 <b>therapist (3)</b> 710:5,6,12 <b>therapy (2)</b> 669:22;670:2 <b>therefore (3)</b> 643:16;644:3;713:19 <b>third (4)</b>	538:14;557:5;587:17; 628:18 <b>Thirty-seven (1)</b> 671:3 <b>Thomas (3)</b> 606:10,20;607:13 <b>thought (5)</b> 616:19;623:21;682:15; 716:22;718:19 <b>thoughts (1)</b> 571:23 <b>thousands (2)</b> 679:9,11 <b>three (23)</b> 538:12;546:20;562:21,21; 564:10;600:6,6;609:20; 610:15;626:8;627:3,6,19; 632:20;650:8;651:19; 669:21;672:20;696:11; 698:12;727:1,2;731:1 <b>three-year (1)</b> 669:14 <b>thrombotic (1)</b> 533:8 <b>thumbs (1)</b> 705:5 <b>Thursday (1)</b> 731:15 <b>tight (1)</b> 568:20 <b>tightness (1)</b> 723:14 <b>times (10)</b> 592:2;609:20;642:24; 643:1;646:10;706:1,5; 707:6;711:17;714:16 <b>timetable (1)</b> 613:19 <b>tiny (1)</b> 673:22 <b>tired (1)</b> 527:11 <b>tiredness (1)</b> 590:22 <b>tissue (5)</b> 554:2;593:16,21;594:9; 595:11 <b>title (5)</b> 532:8,15;619:17;624:3,4 <b>Today (10)</b> 526:2;544:13,14;568:9; 569:17;635:18;660:9; 663:22;726:4;732:18 <b>together (4)</b> 559:13;570:24;595:23; 604:12 <b>told (5)</b> 633:19;672:16;683:22; 697:24;719:10 <b>tolerated (3)</b> 561:5,15;570:3 <b>tolerating (1)</b> 560:8
<b>T</b>			
<b>suprise (1)</b> 672:18 <b>surprised (2)</b> 547:8;672:10 <b>surrounding (1)</b> 644:21 <b>suspect (1)</b> 621:1 <b>suspended (1)</b> 732:24 <b>suspension (1)</b> 601:24 <b>suspicious (3)</b> 529:14;677:23;678:3 <b>Sustained (1)</b> 705:17 <b>Swanton (13)</b> 663:18,21,22,23;664:1,1, 3,6,7,10,14,20;665:5 <b>swaying (2)</b> 572:5,13 <b>sweating (1)</b> 702:19 <b>sworn (1)</b> 705:1 <b>symptom (4)</b> 545:11;662:14,14,21 <b>symptoms (35)</b> 533:3;540:19,20;545:9,9, 12,18;546:5;552:8,10,13; 568:10,12,13,22,23;571:20; 572:12,14;578:2;579:24;	<b>T2 (1)</b> 654:8 <b>tab (9)</b> 533:11,13;601:20;615:21; 623:15,18,20;667:14,15 <b>table (1)</b> 599:12 <b>tablets (5)</b> 574:1,22;575:14;634:19, 23 <b>tailor (1)</b> 684:24 <b>talk (5)</b> 557:12,15;688:14;726:6; 731:19 <b>talked (6)</b> 537:10,12,19;561:23; 562:7;604:8 <b>talking (8)</b> 559:10;560:8;564:6; 566:5;600:22;623:18;652:3; 685:20 <b>talks (1)</b> 637:5 <b>taught (1)</b> 621:6 <b>teaches (1)</b> 621:24 <b>team (1)</b> 700:12 <b>ten (8)</b> 538:19;572:6;596:2; 617:1,20;634:16;677:14; 683:2 <b>ten-minute (1)</b> 584:9 <b>term (18)</b> 537:2;545:8,10;553:21; 554:6;579:15;587:14; 588:24;589:1,6;630:8,20,24; 656:2;662:12;663:4,6;690:3 <b>terminate (1)</b> 632:9 <b>termination (1)</b>		

<b>tomorrow (9)</b> 706:12;728:10,14;730:15, 20;731:13,23;732:4,21	654:4,7,14,16,23;655:14; 656:3	653:7	<b>urine (1)</b> 631:3
<b>took (1)</b> 716:11	<b>trigger (9)</b> 527:8;553:5,6,8;565:1,4,6, 13;587:19	<b>unable (2)</b> 593:16;594:11	<b>use (29)</b> 546:18;624:15,16;630:9, 20,24;638:7;647:14,23,24; 652:1,4;653:19;662:9; 665:11;669:2;672:7;691:1, 17;693:17;697:10,13,14; 701:18;709:22;710:4,4,5,7
<b>top (11)</b> 532:9,15;538:8;539:22; 548:21;587:15;646:18; 656:5;710:18;711:4;715:22	<b>troubles (1)</b> 606:13	<b>unchanged (2)</b> 527:16;578:12	<b>used (37)</b> 528:16;531:5,6,7,14,15, 18,19,20;536:6,8,18;546:21, 22,24;562:4;577:6;589:1; 592:12,13;648:7;650:8; 654:3,5;655:6;665:7;667:4, 6;668:3;669:1;672:2; 689:19;694:24;695:17; 699:17;710:19,24
<b>tops (1)</b> 730:13	<b>true (4)</b> 613:13,17;669:12;685:24	<b>unclear (2)</b> 582:19;593:23	<b>useful (3)</b> 639:1;653:6;677:15
<b>total (2)</b> 592:2;679:12	<b>try (2)</b> 595:22;732:7	<b>uncommon (3)</b> 549:18,19,21	<b>uses (2)</b> 624:11;630:22
<b>tough (1)</b> 587:21	<b>trying (5)</b> 530:16;663:4;675:16,17; 703:4	<b>under (15)</b> 526:20;555:11;571:24; 578:21;615:16;616:2; 619:16;620:8,9;639:18,23; 712:2;715:5,14;717:4	<b>using (2)</b> 558:14;597:10
<b>tox (2)</b> 631:3,3	<b>turn (13)</b> 530:20;548:14;597:13; 621:8;625:15;658:7;682:22; 714:21;717:10;718:1; 720:20;721:15;726:1	<b>underlying (8)</b> 662:7,11,15,15,18,20; 663:3,12	<b>usual (10)</b> 583:8;586:6;588:22,23; 589:1,2,4,6;639:23;709:15
<b>toxic (5)</b> 529:7;570:11;587:17; 594:4;596:21	<b>turning (1)</b> 556:6	<b>understandable (1)</b> 722:9	<b>usually (5)</b> 561:15;616:8;678:8; 690:19;697:13
<b>toxicity (1)</b> 552:20	<b>turns (2)</b> 662:17;682:13	<b>undiagnosed (1)</b> 676:20	<b>V</b>
<b>trained (4)</b> 636:9;669:20;672:20; 681:6	<b>Twenty (1)</b> 623:5	<b>undifferentiated (2)</b> 593:15;594:8	<b>vague (15)</b> 528:7,10,11;541:1; 545:10;552:14;558:10; 569:15;578:18;580:10; 581:19;582:2,3,6;586:15
<b>training (4)</b> 615:7;632:4;636:3,6	<b>twice (5)</b> 646:1;651:6;652:7,18; 672:17	<b>unfamiliar (1)</b> 691:15	<b>varies (1)</b> 692:21
<b>transcript (9)</b> 600:7,8,20;702:3;721:11; 726:10;727:1,13,15	<b>two (46)</b> 538:16;540:10,12;542:2; 543:10;544:2;548:23;556:6; 559:13;563:5,5;564:3,23,24; 567:1;570:24;574:1,21; 575:6,14;577:16;586:23; 596:10;600:23;606:6; 625:14;627:20;628:18; 646:6,24;648:11,15,18; 694:24;695:12,16;705:23; 706:2,5,15;707:6;715:10; 726:18,19;728:3,8	<b>unhappy (1)</b> 722:6	<b>variety (1)</b> 592:12
<b>transcripts (1)</b> 600:19	<b>two-month (1)</b> 634:19	<b>unimportant (1)</b> 682:9	<b>various (2)</b> 562:9;638:13
<b>transfer (1)</b> 704:4	<b>two-page (1)</b> 599:21	<b>units (1)</b> 566:24	<b>vast (1)</b> 711:7
<b>transferred (3)</b> 703:13;704:7,14	<b>Tylenol (1)</b> 538:13	<b>Unless (3)</b> 545:8;608:23;710:11	<b>venue (1)</b> 637:4
<b>transferring (9)</b> 703:24;717:19,23;721:17, 19,22;722:2;724:11,16	<b>type (7)</b> 541:10;543:19;546:8; 575:20;576:1;578:7;583:6	<b>unlikely (2)</b> 572:18;642:5	<b>VEP (1)</b> 650:10
<b>treat (3)</b> 531:4;617:18;629:3	<b>types (4)</b> 548:2;585:20;691:23; 709:21	<b>unnecessarily (1)</b> 612:9	<b>verbiage (1)</b> 692:11
<b>treated (7)</b> 536:15;571:12;583:24; 670:5,12,18;675:9	<b>typically (15)</b> 534:5;545:13;546:21; 554:5,6;561:18;562:4; 575:3;577:4;587:8,11; 630:9;662:9;691:1;693:1	<b>unquote (2)</b> 553:17;633:22	<b>versus (2)</b> 593:15;594:8
<b>treating (6)</b> 528:23;541:14;582:16; 628:3;702:8;714:13		<b>unrelated (2)</b> 583:18;617:17	<b>vial (2)</b> 566:24;567:5
<b>treatment (29)</b> 535:7;541:1,2,3;543:2; 550:18;552:18;557:15; 558:15;561:19;570:4; 577:22,23;578:7,21;582:21; 583:15;587:4,15;593:7; 594:23;595:19;632:7;663:8, 11,14;670:8,15,20		<b>unsteady (2)</b> 572:5,13	<b>vials (1)</b> 567:1
<b>treatments (5)</b> 552:7,12;581:1,8;595:3		<b>unusual (11)</b> 543:13;546:4,7;577:19; 578:8;582:13;584:3;716:15, 16;717:8;723:20	<b>view (4)</b> 648:2,4,6,9
<b>treats (1)</b> 662:20		<b>up (45)</b> 530:14;532:9,12;544:1; 548:12,13;555:24;556:3; 559:22;571:15;592:15; 595:11;597:18;625:2,5; 628:6;635:15;642:24;651:8, 11;658:2;663:5;664:1; 667:18,20,20;668:1,16; 669:5,9,24;675:12,14,23; 676:2;683:20;698:24;699:5; 701:23;705:5,9,21;714:10; 731:11;732:3	<b>violated (1)</b> 607:8
<b>trial (13)</b> 655:2,5,8,9,10,18,21; 656:2,6,9,11,11,20		<b>upset (1)</b> 702:20	<b>visit (31)</b>
<b>trials (7)</b>			
	<b>U</b>		
	<b>ulcer (1)</b> 574:9		
	<b>ultimately (1)</b>		

544:18;553:5;574:19; 582:19;587:19;621:16; 708:21;709:3,10,11,19; 710:9,11;711:4,9,10,12,13, 15,18,21;712:3,4,21,23; 713:6,19,21;714:5,14,19 <b>visits (8)</b> 583:18,24;708:2,11,24; 711:1;713:23;714:12 <b>visual (4)</b> 649:8,22,23;650:1 <b>Vital (3)</b> 557:6;694:6;717:2 <b>vitals (1)</b> 716:11 <b>voicemail (1)</b> 728:10 <b>volume (1)</b> 727:2	604:5;605:4;608:7,11,13,22 <b>Well-known (2)</b> 655:23;656:9 <b>What's (13)</b> 533:11;541:15;545:3; 557:19;580:11;591:4,4,17; 595:2;604:5;606:11;651:14; 728:1 <b>whenever (1)</b> 732:16 <b>Whereupon (1)</b> 732:23 <b>white (1)</b> 645:2 <b>whole (4)</b> 593:5;608:22;706:11; 724:2 <b>whose (1)</b> 552:23 <b>widely (2)</b> 636:13,20 <b>Wikipedia (3)</b> 673:10,15;674:1 <b>windows (5)</b> 693:15,23;694:3,6,21 <b>wish (4)</b> 531:22;557:9;722:2; 730:22 <b>within (12)</b> 539:21;551:9;557:1,24; 566:18;567:14;570:20; 584:16;610:24;616:15; 633:23;679:11 <b>without (10)</b> 564:22;647:10,14;654:20, 24;655:5;660:12,14;676:2; 679:8 <b>WITNESS (24)</b> 526:21;585:2,6;597:23; 606:24;607:2,4,5,13,14; 609:16;613:1;620:8;623:9; 632:19,23;666:14;682:24; 683:4;686:14,18,23;705:1; 720:22 <b>witness' (1)</b> 632:17 <b>witnesses (9)</b> 604:23;609:13;610:11,13; 611:23;614:3;728:5,14; 729:2 <b>woman (1)</b> 664:14 <b>Women's (3)</b> 669:2,15,20 <b>wonder (1)</b> 682:24 <b>word (2)</b> 537:3;679:10 <b>words (3)</b> 633:8;685:21;710:18 <b>work (4)</b> 639:11;657:10;704:18; 706:6	<b>worked (1)</b> 671:7 <b>working (1)</b> 616:19 <b>worrisome (1)</b> 718:20 <b>worse (2)</b> 550:10,22 <b>write (15)</b> 574:23;575:7,15,17,21; 576:2;618:2;624:17;684:16; 690:11,14;697:12;705:19; 709:22;712:15 <b>writes (1)</b> 710:12 <b>writing (7)</b> 532:16;575:22,24;613:5, 15;627:23;729:11 <b>written (25)</b> 538:14,19;618:5;624:12, 13;626:9;627:5,9,19;628:7, 10,15,17,18,21;642:24; 679:8;693:4,4;707:3;710:8, 21;715:8;721:12,14 <b>wrong (2)</b> 636:16,21 <b>wrote (6)</b> 554:10;575:5;588:3,15; 595:23;603:9	<b>0</b> <b>0.9 (1)</b> 674:15 <b>1</b> <b>1 (2)</b> 598:6,6 <b>1,000 (2)</b> 573:7,10 <b>1:27 (1)</b> 614:8 <b>10 (1)</b> 732:21 <b>100 (1)</b> 566:24 <b>10th (1)</b> 596:12 <b>11 (2)</b> 598:7;599:19 <b>11:30 (1)</b> 584:11 <b>11:40 (1)</b> 584:11 <b>112 (1)</b> 725:20 <b>115 (4)</b> 621:9,12;622:20,21 <b>116 (1)</b> 621:12 <b>12 (3)</b> 598:11;599:1;615:21 <b>12:22 (1)</b> 614:8 <b>13 (2)</b> 599:4,16 <b>1300 (1)</b> 542:6 <b>1306 (2)</b> 620:18;622:1 <b>1306.12 (10)</b> 619:18,24;620:11,18; 621:6;623:7,24;624:3,21; 627:10 <b>134 (2)</b> 687:1,7 <b>137 (7)</b> 716:3,6;717:10;718:1; 722:11;724:21;725:4 <b>13th (1)</b> 634:14 <b>14 (2)</b> 599:18;601:2 <b>143 (2)</b> 626:3;627:24 <b>1432 (1)</b> 551:8 <b>146 (1)</b> 534:8 <b>1465 (3)</b> 526:24;565:1,4
<b>W</b>		<b>X</b>	
<b>wait (4)</b> 613:22;614:1;626:11; 716:12 <b>waited (1)</b> 718:3 <b>waiting (6)</b> 588:11;626:21,24;685:9; 719:11;723:24 <b>walked (2)</b> 717:2;718:18 <b>Walsh (1)</b> 601:14 <b>wants (3)</b> 566:10;718:4;724:5 <b>Warfield (3)</b> 726:14,15;727:5 <b>warm (1)</b> 566:9 <b>warned (1)</b> 534:19 <b>watch (1)</b> 719:20 <b>way (6)</b> 530:6;584:3;635:6; 640:23;651:20;701:1 <b>ways (3)</b> 654:5;691:11;693:22 <b>weakness (3)</b> 531:11,12,17 <b>website (4)</b> 618:8;635:16;705:15; 706:3 <b>week (3)</b> 619:16;731:7,8 <b>weekly (1)</b> 657:14 <b>weeks (6)</b> 552:17;553:4;577:16; 584:1;586:23;661:24 <b>weight (9)</b> 598:22;600:13;603:7;		<b>Xanax (3)</b> 696:24;697:5,8 <b>X's (1)</b> 563:9 <b>Y</b> <b>year (1)</b> 557:21 <b>years (10)</b> 617:23;629:5;647:15; 669:21;671:1;672:20;690:4; 705:10,24;706:2 <b>yesterday (33)</b> 561:24;605:11,13;606:15; 607:19,22;611:17;620:10; 631:2;633:11;643:12;644:8; 645:6;646:1,5,21;652:7,18; 658:14;659:23;660:10,19; 661:12,20;663:20;665:7; 668:5;675:11,23;683:12; 684:23;701:23;731:9	
		<b>Z</b>	
		<b>Zero (2)</b> 618:4;674:15 <b>Zofran (3)</b> 588:4,4,5	

<b>1466 (1)</b> 526:24	591:16,19	<b>203 (1)</b> 634:16	634:17,21,23
<b>1471 (3)</b> 537:19,23;539:5	<b>1931 (1)</b> 592:4	<b>205 (2)</b> 643:8,9	<b>30-days (1)</b> 635:1
<b>1494 (4)</b> 539:15,17;544:8;549:23	<b>1958 (3)</b> 592:20,23,24	<b>206 (2)</b> 658:11;674:12	<b>33 (1)</b> 690:4
<b>14th (2)</b> 634:15,20	<b>1959 (2)</b> 592:24;593:2	<b>2098 (3)</b> 576:17,19;582:9	<b>35 (2)</b> 538:24;707:2
<b>15 (7)</b> 558:23;601:5,11;617:1, 20;623:1;677:14	<b>1982 (2)</b> 636:15,19	<b>2099 (9)</b> 556:7,9,10;557:16; 558:22;559:1,2;572:24; 574:17	<b>356 (2)</b> 526:24;565:4
<b>153 (1)</b> 697:22	<b>2</b>	<b>20th (1)</b> 599:12	<b>357 (3)</b> 527:1;534:8;559:3
<b>1532 (1)</b> 544:5	<b>2 (6)</b> 530:14;619:17,24;624:3; 726:24;727:17	<b>21 (8)</b> 539:20;544:9;607:24; 608:17;609:2;619:17; 621:14;624:3	<b>359 (3)</b> 537:19,23;539:5
<b>1565 (6)</b> 556:11;559:21;560:4,6,7; 564:1	<b>2,000 (1)</b> 673:23	<b>2100 (4)</b> 535:10,12;536:22;538:2	<b>36 (1)</b> 538:19
<b>1570 (4)</b> 556:16;559:3,10,21	<b>2:54 (1)</b> 683:8	<b>211 (1)</b> 700:21	<b>360 (6)</b> 539:15,17;544:8;549:23; 634:21,23
<b>15th (3)</b> 526:2;573:1,2	<b>2:59 (1)</b> 683:8	<b>2112 (2)</b> 566:8,23	<b>365 (1)</b> 551:8
<b>16 (5)</b> 564:16;601:13,20;602:8; 621:17	<b>20 (8)</b> 598:6;604:17;606:3; 621:14;623:6,14,15,16	<b>22 (5)</b> 598:16;609:5,9;634:17,22	<b>366 (4)</b> 556:12;559:21;560:5; 564:1
<b>1608 (5)</b> 560:17,20;564:9,11;566:7	<b>200 (2)</b> 683:12;685:16	<b>23 (1)</b> 667:15	<b>367 (2)</b> 556:16;559:21
<b>1665 (2)</b> 568:2,3	<b>2001 (2)</b> 651:15;664:20	<b>231 (1)</b> 634:9	<b>370 (2)</b> 564:9;566:7
<b>1694 (2)</b> 570:18;576:6	<b>2005 (2)</b> 655:21;664:20	<b>232 (1)</b> 708:1	<b>371 (1)</b> 568:3
<b>1695 (2)</b> 570:21,23	<b>2008 (6)</b> 555:8;594:14;606:11; 623:1,6,24	<b>233 (3)</b> 707:13,14,15	<b>372 (3)</b> 570:19;576:6,7
<b>17 (3)</b> 566:14;602:10,14	<b>2009 (6)</b> 596:12;621:17,21;634:15, 15,17	<b>23B (4)</b> 532:23;533:13,19;667:14	<b>374 (1)</b> 576:12
<b>1700 (1)</b> 576:12	<b>200A (2)</b> 685:18,19	<b>23rd (2)</b> 576:24;577:3	<b>378 (2)</b> 577:10;580:23
<b>173 (2)</b> 687:1,7	<b>201 (2)</b> 643:23;685:16	<b>240 (1)</b> 634:19	<b>380 (3)</b> 589:15,17;590:21
<b>1759 (2)</b> 577:10;582:17	<b>2010 (23)</b> 527:4;535:9,14;536:23; 537:18;539:21;540:8;544:9; 556:4;558:23;559:4;566:14; 573:2;576:18,24;577:3; 584:20;589:14;591:21; 592:5;596:12;601:16; 651:16	<b>24th (1)</b> 727:2	<b>382 (2)</b> 584:13,15
<b>17th (2)</b> 576:18,22	<b>2011 (2)</b> 598:18;727:2	<b>26 (1)</b> 559:11	<b>382-383 (1)</b> 584:18
<b>18 (4)</b> 602:16,20;603:10,20	<b>2012 (2)</b> 619:5;621:19	<b>26th (1)</b> 559:4	<b>384 (3)</b> 555:7,10;590:13
<b>18- (1)</b> 580:13	<b>2013 (4)</b> 599:4,13;618:9;619:6	<b>28th (1)</b> 722:8	<b>385 (1)</b> 590:14
<b>1814 (5)</b> 589:14,16,17;590:17,21	<b>2014 (4)</b> 599:19;614:24;615:4; 624:19	<b>29th (4)</b> 599:4;731:14,19;732:16	<b>389 (2)</b> 591:16,18
<b>1843 (3)</b> 580:13;584:15,18	<b>2015 (1)</b> 526:3	<b>3</b>	<b>390 (1)</b> 592:5
<b>1844 (1)</b> 584:18	<b>20-21 (1)</b> 621:8	<b>3/18/2010 (1)</b> 557:22	<b>392 (1)</b> 592:21
<b>1848 (1)</b> 590:13	<b>2024 (2)</b> 539:13,16	<b>3:55 (1)</b> 706:22	<b>393 (1)</b> 592:21
<b>189 (1)</b> 634:9		<b>30 (4)</b> 626:4,6;634:10;730:13	<b>3rd (3)</b> 536:23;591:21;592:5
<b>18th (1)</b> 555:8		<b>301 (1)</b> 555:8	<b>3T (1)</b> 588:11
<b>19 (10)</b> 603:13;604:6,7,11,13,14; 714:22,24;715:1,3		<b>30-day (8)</b> 633:12,12,17,21,23;	<b>4</b>
<b>1921 (2)</b>			<b>4/13/2010 (1)</b> 659:17
			<b>4/21 (1)</b>

540:6 <b>4/21/2010 (3)</b> 540:1,3;541:24 <b>4:00 (1)</b> 725:24 <b>4:02 (1)</b> 732:24 <b>417 (2)</b> 539:13,16 <b>43 (2)</b> 625:16,23 <b>439 (8)</b> 682:23;683:12,19;684:10, 16,23;685:1,3 <b>440 (10)</b> 683:16,19;684:10,13,16, 21;685:3,8,15;686:8 <b>444 (1)</b> 643:21 <b>46 (1)</b> 707:15 <b>465 (6)</b> 643:7,20;658:7;674:7,8; 680:23 <b>466 (3)</b> 674:12;680:23;681:3 <b>476 (2)</b> 576:20;582:9 <b>477 (4)</b> 556:7,10;572:24;574:17 <b>478 (2)</b> 535:11;538:1 <b>482 (1)</b> 566:8 <b>4th (2)</b> 556:4;594:14	<b>6/17/10 (3)</b> 560:17,18,21 <b>6/17/2010 (2)</b> 566:5,22 <b>6/28 (1)</b> 720:10 <b>6/29/2010 (3)</b> 568:5;718:6;719:8 <b>60 (4)</b> 529:12;538:20;592:2; 635:1 <b>600 (1)</b> 538:17 <b>60-day (1)</b> 634:20 <b>64 (1)</b> 529:12 <b>66 (2)</b> 697:19,22 <b>6th (7)</b> 527:4;535:9,14;536:24; 537:18;559:10;584:19		
<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>		
<b>5 (2)</b> 539:24;623:20 <b>5/26/2010 (1)</b> 556:18 <b>5/3/2010 (1)</b> 540:2 <b>5/4 (1)</b> 551:13 <b>5/9/2010 (1)</b> 551:15 <b>559 (1)</b> 548:18 <b>59 (1)</b> 592:21 <b>5th (4)</b> 589:13;590:4;609:17; 610:12	<b>70 (4)</b> 714:21,24,24;715:1 <b>700 (1)</b> 548:23 <b>71 (5)</b> 703:16,22;717:13,14; 721:16 <b>74 (1)</b> 725:20 <b>75 (4)</b> 578:2;579:24;580:1,8 <b>759 (1)</b> 580:23 <b>79 (2)</b> 716:4;721:10		
<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>		
<b>6 (2)</b> 623:15,18 <b>6,000 (2)</b> 673:23;692:1	<b>8 (1)</b> 623:1 <b>81 (5)</b> 703:16,22;717:11;720:20; 721:16 <b>84 (1)</b> 529:12 <b>88 (1)</b> 529:12 <b>8th (1)</b> 596:12		
	<b>9</b>		
	<b>9/27 (1)</b> 590:2 <b>9th (2)</b> 598:18;601:16		