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THE STATE OF OHIO, : COUNTY of CUYAHOGA.

SS:

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

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ARAZINE SMITH, executrix of the : ESTATE of CAROLYN YARBOROUGH, plaintiff,

vs.

: Case No. 326850

SAINT LUKE'S HOSPITAL, defendant.

Deposition of STEVEN BASS, M.D.,

a witness herein, called by the plaintiff for the purpose of cross-examination pursuant to the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, taken before Constance Campbell, a Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, at Saint Luke's Hospital, 11311 Shaker Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio, on <u>TUESDAY</u>, OCTOBER 28TH, 1997, commencing at 2:10 p.m. pursuant to agreement of counsel.

FLOWERS & VERSAGI



COURT REPORTERS **Computerized Transcription Computerized Litigation Support** THE 113 SAINT CLAIR BUILDING - SUITE 505 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44114-1273 (216)771-8018 1-800-837-DEPO

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13	
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1	STEVEN BASS, M.D.
2	of lawful age, a witness herein, called by the
3	plaintiff for the purpose of cross-examination
4	pursuant to the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure,
5	being first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,
6	was examined and testified as follows:
7	
8	MISS XOLIS: For
9	identification purposes on the record we've met, as
10	you know my name is Donna Xolis, I've been retained
11	to represent the Estate of Carolyn Yarborough. My
12	purpose is to gain information that you might be
13	able to provide to me both from your consultation
14	and things that don't appear in the record.
15	Have you been deposed before?
16	THE WITNESS: Yes.
17	MISS XOLIS: That's probably
18	a silly question, I'm never certain.
19	Knowing Mr. Goldwasser as I do, I'm
20	certain prior to the deposition he would have
2 1	indicated to you to answer all my questions in a
22	verbal fashion. I would recommit you to that. We
23	don't like to make the court reporter interpret our
24	answers Or questions.
25	Additionally if I ask a question

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1 that you don't understand, which is a high 2 likelihood, you can tell me you don't understand what I'm asking. Don't answer a question you are 3 not clear about. As questions and answers appear 4 on the record it's presumed you understood the 5 question. б Additionally if at any point you 7 wish to confir with Mr. Goldwasser or your other 8 counsel who is here today that's acceptable to 9 myself. If for any reason you are paged, patient 10 11 care of course takes precedence over deposition, we 12 don't mind waiting for you. Have you understood everything I instructed you on? 13 THE WITNESS: Yes. 14 15 _ _ _ _ _ _ 16 CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MISS ROLIS: 17 With that said, for the record can you state 18 Q, 19 your name and your business address? 20 Steven Bass, 11311 Shaker Boulevard, Α. 2 1 Cleveland 44104. 22 Q. You are identifying by address Saint Luke's 23 Hospital; is that accurate? 24 Α. Yes, that is where my office is. Q. 25 Other than the office in the hospital, do you

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1	have offices outside of the hospital?
2	A. We share some office space, our group does, I
3	don't physically see patients or have an office
4	elsewhere.
5	Q. We'll make that very simple. For the record
6	you've indicated your group, you are a member of a
7	group practice; is that accurate?
8	A. Correct.
9	Q. What is the name of the group practice?
10	A. ID Consultants.
11	Q. How many members are in ID Consultants?
12	A. Five.
13	Q. I'm not going to ask you their names at this
14	moment, I don't think it's all that important. So
15	the record is clear, you do not see patients other
16	than here at Saint Luke's Hospital, you don't see
17	them at the other office?
18	A. Yes, I see patients at other hospitals. I
19	don't see outpatients at any other office.
20	Q. Where is your office located, the other
21	office?
22	A. We have at Hillcrest, Hillcrest medical
23	building, we share some space there.
2 4	Q. You've indicated that you don't see other
25	hospital outpatients, ${\tt I'm}$ a little bit confused

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1	about what you told me, maybe I'm not listening too
2	well?
3	A. Most of the work I do represents seeing
4	patients in the hospital. Our group sees patients
5	at a number of hospitals. There will be an
6	occasion to see a patient as an outpatient in an
	office setting. I only see patients here. There
8	is another office that we sublet from another
9	physician at Hillcrest and actually out in Geauga
10	County members of our group utilize.
11	Q. I'm still not clear, it's the questioner, not
12	the answerer.
13	You see outpatients here in your
14	office at the hospital; is that right?
15	A. Correct.
16	Q. You also see patients who are inpatients at
17	Saint Luke's?
18	A. Correct.
19	Q. Do you also see patients at Hillcrest
20	Hospital who are in the hospital?
2 1	A. Yes.
22	Q. I think that is pretty clear to me.
23	Mr. Goldwasser is apparently
2.4	reviewing your CV.
2 5	MR. GOLDWASSER: I'm going to

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1 have a copy made available to you. I'll give it to 2 you. It's the only copy I have, as you saw just brought in. 3 4 MISS KOLIS: I won't put any marks on it. 5 Q. Do you have privileges at an other hospital 6 7 other than Hillcrest and Saint Luke's? Α. 8 Yes. 9 Q . What other hospitals? 10 All the Meridia hospitals, Marymount, Α. 11 Bedford, Saint Vincent's, Geauga, that kind of 12 covers it. 13 I'm probably not going to go through very Q. 14 thoroughly your CV, basically I want to confirm the 15 information that appears on here. 16 You completed medical school at 17 Cornell University in 1976? 18 Α. Yes. 19 Q. Thereafter did a one year internship at 20University Hospitals, correct? 2 1 Α. Yes. 22 Q. Residency same place, University Hospitals, 23 '77 through '79? 24 Α. Correct. 25 Was that an internal medicine residency? Q.

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1	Α.	Yes.
2	Q,	Thereafter you completed a two year
3	Fellow	wship in infectious disease, `79 to '81 at
4	Unive	rsity Hospitals?
5	Α.	Yes.
6	Q.	Then spent an additional year as the chief
7	reside	ent, was that in internal medicine or
8	infect	tious disease?
9	Α.	Internal medicine.
10	Q.	`81 to `82, right?
11	Α.	Correct.
12	Q.	What year did you become Board certified in
13	inter	nal medicine?
14	Α.	1979.
15	Q.	Are you also Boarded in infectious disease?
16	Α.	Yes.
17	Q.	What year did you take that Board?
18	Α.	I believe 1982.
19	Q.	Have you had to recertify in either of those
20	Board	s since that time?
21	Α.	No.
22	Q.	In anticipation of the questions that I'm
23	going	to ask today, did you review any material?
24	Α.	Yes.
25	Q,	What did you review?

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1	A. I reviewed the medical record during the
2	patient's stay at Saint Luke's Hospital. I
3	reviewed the autopsy report, discharge summary from
4	Huron Hospital.
5	Q. When you say you reviewed the
6	hospitalization, Carolyn was hospitalized here more
7	than once. Did you simply review the January 9,
8	1996 through January 25th hospitalization, or did
9	you review
10	A. Basically that one. I didn't spend a lot of
11	time on the others.
12	Q. The autopsy report, correct?
13	A. Correct.
14	Q. The discharge summary only of the Huron Road
15	records?
16	A. Correct.
17	Q. In preparing to discuss Carolyn's care with
18	me, did you have an occasion to ${ m do}$ a MEDLINE review
19	of any sort?
20	A. No.
21	Q. Doctor, do you have any teaching
22	responsibilities?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. Tell me about those.
25	A. There are residents on the infectious disease

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1	service here each month, we basically supervise the
2	residents and they have an exposure to the
3	discipline of infectious disease here. We also do
4	that at Meridia Huron. We teach medical students
5	here, Case Western Reserve students. We interact
6	with medical students from Ohio University College
7	of Osteopathic Medicine predominantly at South
8	Pointe Hospital.
9	Q, I gather from that answer the teaching you ${\tt do}$
10	is clinical in nature, you're not teaching in the
11	classroom at Case?
12	A. There are some presentations that we do give
13	to undergraduate not undergraduate, sorry, first
14	and second year medical students.
15	Q. When you say you have residents that come
16	through on a monthly basis, does Saint Luke's
17	Hospital offer a full residency program in
18	infectious disease medicine?
19	A. No.
20	Q. They are rotating through on a monthly basis?
21	A. Right.
22	Q. What programs do those residents come from?
23	A. These are internal medicine residents, they
24	don't come from any program.
25	Q. Fair enough.

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1 Prior to today I did not have the 2 opportunity to do a Common Pleas index on you, I'm going to ask you these questions by way of 3 4 background. Other than the instant piece of litigation, have you previously been sued for 5 6 alleged medical negligence? 7 MR. GOLDWASSER: Objection, you 8 may answer. 9 Α. Yes. 10 Q. Without holding you to it specifically, can 11 you recall on how many occasions you were sued? 12 MR. GOLDWASSER: Objection. You 13 may answer. 14 I believe I've been involved with five, Α. 15 something of that nature. 16 Q. Were all of those cases filed in Cuyahoga 17 County? 18 Yes, as far as I know. Α. 19 Q. I assume you've practiced medicine in 20Cleveland essentially since you --21 Α. Yes. Did any of those five matters that were 22 Q . previously filed against you involve a failure to 23 diagnose an infection? 24 25 MR. GOLDWASSER: Objection. You

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1 may answer. 2 I can't tell you what the -- I don't recall Α. 3 what the allegations were. In no cases was there a 4 proven allegation. I can't tell you if that was the focus of the claims. 5 Q. Are you indicating to me by that answer that 6 7 in the five cases that were filed against you all 8 of them to the best of your knowledge were resolved 9 without a payment on behalf of Dr. Steven Bass? 10 Correct. Α. Q. Were you represented send by 11 12 Reminger & Reminger in those actions? A. Yes. 13 MR. GOLDWASSER: Not 14 15 exclusively. I think Jacobson, Maynard had some of 16 those cases. 17 Fair enough. I'll do my own work, look at Q. 18 the index. I thought I would ask you for what you 19 could remember. 20 In January of 1996 what was your 21 relationship with Saint Luke's Hospital at the time 22 of Carolyn Yarborough's admission? 23 I first of all was a member of the medical Α. 24 staff, I was a salaried member of the Department of 25 Medicine, teaching capacity in the Division of

Infectious Disease and Department of Medicine. 1 2 Q, In terms of any compensation which you might 3 have derived for the consultation which you 4 performed upon Carolyn while she was in January 5 of 1996, who provided payment for those services, 6 if you know? 7 There was no payment for those services as Α. far as I'm aware of. 8 Was Carolyn Yarborough a clinical patient? 9 Q, 10 I don't know what you mean by that. Α. Q. If you don't know what I mean, I don't 11 12 either. 13 I guess what I'm asking you is a different question, so let's see if we can turn 14 15 this around. At the time of this incident were you 16 insured for medical negligence? 17 MR. GOLDWASSER: Was Dr. Bass, 18 did he have professional liability insurance? 19 Q. Yes, did you have professional --20 MR. GOLDWASSER: Objection. You 21 may answer. 22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. Who was your professional liability carrier? 24 I've been covered by PIE. Α. 25 Q. In January of 1996 you were working with a

policy of liability coverage provided by PIE; is 2 that right? For the care of patients who were so-called 3 Α. private patients. In one's role as a faculty 4 5 member here, in the care of staff patients, that 6 liability coverage doesn't apply. 7 MR. GOLDWASSER: That's why 8 Goldwasser is here instead of John Jackson. 9 Q. Carolyn Yarborough was not a private patient --10 11 MISS KOLIS: Which is good 12 for me I suppose. I don't know. MR. GOLDWASSER: 13 Q. 14 __ she was a staff patient; is that correct? 15 Α. Correct. 16 Q. Accordingly you are being represented under 17 an indemnification with the hospital for your care 18 of a staff patient? 19 I don't know what you mean by Α. 20 indemnification. My understanding is that any sort 21 of liability coverage is provided by the hospital when these patients are here. 22 23 Q, She didn't come through your private 24 practice? 25 Α. No.

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1	Q. Let's try to deal efficiently hopefully with
2	questions that ${\tt I}$ have for you regarding this case.
3	I reviewed the records, I don't
4	always profess to be able to read everyone's
5	signature. To the best of my ability there is
6	charted only one examination by yourself of this
7	patient, is that accurate, that there was only one
8	examination by you of Carolyn?
9	A. Correct.
10	Q. That occurred on January 23, 1996?
11	A. Correct.
12	\mathbb{Q} . To the best of your recollection, other than
13	the one recorded consultative visit we're going to
14	talk about, did you do any ${\tt I}$ call them curb side
15	consultations in the management of antibiotics for
16	this patient while she was hospitalized?
17	A. Not that I can recall.
18	Q, From your review of the records, Dr. Bass,
19	what was the purpose of the consultation you
2.0	performed on January 23, 1996?
21	A. To interpret the results of cultures taken on
22	January 16th of 1996.
23	Q. Who requested this consultation with
24	yourself?
25	A. The surgical service.

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	Q. How does the surgical service request a
2	consultation with you?
3	A. In this specific case?
4	Q. Um-hum.
5	A. I don't recall if I received a phone call
6	from the surgical resident or from the surgical
7	attending.
8	Q. Have you looked at the orders in the chart?
9	A. Not comprehensively.
10	\mathbb{Q} . I'm asking you if did you. I went through
11	them, I didn't find an order for an infectious
12	disease consult on any date 16th or 20th or 23rd,
13	that is why I'm asking you whether you have a
14	recollection how you were called in?
15	A. It's usually through a phone call.
16	Q. Do you log those phone calls anywhere?
17	A. Not all of them. If it came through my
18	office it may be in a log. It may have been a
19	message on my beeper that ${f I}$ called right back.
20	Q. How is it that today you know that the
21	purpose that you were called in for consult was to
22	interpret cultures done on the 16th?
23	A. I recall that.
24	${\mathbb Q}$. When you say you recall it, in reviewing the
25	medical records themselves, you have a specific

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1	recollection that you had received a call to ask
2	you to interpret cultures?
3	A. I recall the case, I recall having my
4	involvement to interpret those cultures.
5	\mathbb{Q} . When you say that you would have been
6	requested to interpret cultures, what would the
7	process of interpreting cultures entail?
8	A. If the culture results represented a
9	significant infection that required therapy; or
10	represented colonization, that would require
11	therapy.
12	Q. Would physically examining the patient be
13	part of what would be required to interpret the
14	cultures?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. What happened on the 16th that caused a
17	culture to be drawn?
18	A. There was, as I recall in reviewing the
19	chart, there was drainage from the wound.
20	Q. We're probably going to go through some of
21	the progress notes. That's your recollection,
22	correct?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. What I would like to do first, so we have a
2 5	place to work from, is I'll have the court reporter

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1	mark this Plaintiff's Exhibit A. I'll represent to
2	you this is a photocopy of an entry from the chart
3	of your one and only consultation in the chart; do
4	agree this is a consultation note?
5	A. There is usually a note written by the
6	resident, I did not see a consult form, I did not
7	see that in the chart. I don't know where that is.
8	Q. When you say the consult form, are you
9	talking about standard hospital consultation form?
10	A. Correct.
11	Q. From your review of the record did you see a
12	completed consultation form?
13	A. No.
14	Q. Nor did I, that's why I`m asking.
15	A. I didn`t see it, I don't know if it was
16	written, that could have been another note
17	referable to infectious disease.
18	Q. Did you see any note written in the chart by
19	infectious disease residents?
20	A. No.
2 1	Q, I didn't either, I'm trying to confirm that.
22	Customarily then, not trying to beat a dead horse,
23	there is usually a consult form that would be here
24	in the consultation section of the chart?
25	A. Right.

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1	Q. Your review reveals that there isn't one,
2	correct? .
3	A. Correct.
4	Q. Generally speaking, on those consult forms,
5	that is where you generally find the information as
6	to who requested the consult and scope of
7	consultation, correct?
8	A. Correct.
9	Q. As boring as this might seem, I would like to
10	prevail upon you to read into the record what your
11	actual consultation note says.
12	A. ID patient seen, has myelitis, on steroids,
13	cecal perforation, treated and has improved.
14	Currently off systemic antibiotics. Surface
15	cultures with enterococcus, yeast. Foley out times
16	one day, afebrile. Blood count down to 13,000.
17	Urinalysis, January 20th, negative. Assessment:
18	N $_{0}$ signs of significant infection, positive culture
19	represents surface and mucosal colonization and
20	patient at high risk for superinfection. Keep off
21	all antibiotics. Recheck urine since Foley is
22	out. May treat with Fluconazole.
23	Q, I'll come back and ask questions about that.
24	I wanted that as my baseline.
25	In assessing the patient for the

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1	purpose of the cultures that were drawn on the
	16th, did you take it upon yourself to review the
	charting up to the point that you saw her at that
4	time?
5	A. Yes.
б	\mathbb{Q} . Were you aware of the operative cultures in
7	this patient at the time that you saw her?
8	A. Yes.
9	\mathbb{Q} . Had a yeast organism been identified and
10	isolated from the abdominal fluid?
11	A. Yes.
12	${f Q}$. Had an enterococcus organism been identified
13	and isolated?
14	A. Yes.
15	Q. At the time that you consulted with her on
16	January 23rd, were you aware of what systemic
17	antibiotic therapy she had been on?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q, What therapy do you recall, or you can look
20	at the record, her having been on up to the point
2 1	you saw her?
22	A. My recollection is that she was on Cefotetan
23	and Flagyl. Can I check that for sure?
24	Q. If I suggest that the chart also reflects
25	Gentamycin does that the refresh what you reviewed?

1	A. Yes, that would make sense. I'll take your
2	word for it.
3	Q. You don't ever have to take my word for it.
4	A. That was my recollection.
5	Q. At that time would you agree with me that the
б	three antibiotics that we just listed don't include
7	coverage either for the Candida or enterococcus
8	found?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. From your review of the chart, up until the
11	time you saw the patient, did you consider that
12	Carolyn had carried a postoperative fever?
13	A. She had fever postoperatively, yes.
14	Q. What is your definition of postoperative
15	fever, what ranges?
16	A. I would say temperature over 38.
17	Q. 38 in Fahrenheit is what, if you can do the
18	math for me, if you can't, tell me?
19	A. I would say a temperature of 100. Pretty
20	close to that.
2 1	Q. Using your definition, you would agree with
22	me she had postoperative fevers through the course
23	of her hospitalization up until the time of
24	discharge; do you agree or disagree with that?
25	A. It is my recollection her temperature came

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down during the course of her hospitalization. 1 2 Is it your recollection it came down and Q . stayed down or fluctuated in the postop 100 degree 3 4 range? 5 It's my understanding from looking at the Α. б record that her temperature dipped below 37 on 7 numerous occasions, was in the high 37's for most of the time in the hospital. Later on she had a 8 9 temperature of **38.9**, **38.3**, temperature had come 10 down. MISS KOLIS: I'm going to 11 12 hand you this because we may want to refer to it, 13 I'll state for the record that this is a graph. 14 This graph doesn't appear in the hospital chart, 15 €or purpose of questioning I'm going to mark it 16 Plaintiff's B. MR. GOLDWASSER: Who prepared 17 18 the graph or created it? MISS KOLIS: We created it 19 20based on the temperature. It's subject to dispute 2 1 or anything at a later time. This is a graph 22 prepared showing dates and plotting out dates and 23 temperature by nursing staff. MR. GOLDWASSER: Centigrade or 24 25 Fahrenheit?

23

	MISS XOLIS: Converted
2	Fahrenheit.
3	Q. Hang onto that in case we need to use it.
4	Looking at a person, when I say a
5	person, talking about Carolyn Yarborough, what is
6	the importance of calculating in the postoperative
7	fevers in trying to assess whether or not there is
8	an intra-abdominal infection?
9	A. Repeat the question.
10	Q, Looking at Carolyn Yarborough's situation, a
11	person who had a perforated secum and peritonitis,
12	in attempting to assess in her particular
13	circumstances whether there is postoperatively an
14	intra-abdominal infection, what importance do you
15	place upon postoperative fever?
16	A. The persistence of fever would raise the
17	concern about there being an infection.
18	Q. So that we don't have a problem with
19	semantics, when you say persistence of fever, can
20	you explain to me in layman's terms how you
2 1	quantify or define the persistence of fever?
22	A. Temperature that stays elevated above the
23	defined range during the course of her stay. That
24	would be a fever.
25	Q. Having just given that definition, when you

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1	say sustained, do you mean a fever that spikes and
2	then stays the same through a number of days, or is
3	there within that temperature a spike, drops,
4	spikes again; is it variable or does it have to be
5	constant?
6	A. Fevers can vary. I don't think that a fever
7	pattern defines what is going on. Usually in a
8	setting of a postoperative fever there is high
9	grade temperature.
10	Q. In terms of your perspective as a Board
11	certified infectious disease physician, what
12	clinical single diagnostic finding is most highly
13	suggestive of intra-abdominal infection?
14	MISS KOLIS: Connie, can you
15	read that back?
16	
17	(Question read.)
18	
19	A. Persistent fever, persistent leukocytosis.
20	Q. Leukocytosis meaning white blood count?
21	A. Yes.
22	Q. Elevated white blood count?
23	A. Yes.
24	Q. We're going to get into this specifically a
25	little further in my questioning, I'm trying to set

1	the stage in this way: In Carolyn Yarborough was
2	there a diagnostic complication in terms of
3	leukocytosis because of the fact Carolyn Yarborough
4	was taking steroids?
5	A. I think the steroids probably played a role
6	in her leukocytosis.
7	Q. That's something you as an infectious disease
8	doctor are aware of, correct?
9	A. Correct.
10	Q. Can you give me, pretend I'm the medical
11	student, your definition or explanation as to why
12	the administration of steroids affects the
13	leukocytosis?
14	A. It causes leukocytosis by demarginating white
15	cells in the periphery and measured white count is
16	elevated.
17	Q. The person who is on steroids could have no
18	infection, but have a demonstrated higher white
19	blood count, correct?
20	A. Correct.
2 1	Q. How do you as an infectious disease doctor
22	discern what it is that is elevating the white
23	blood count in a situation like that?
2 4	A. Well, we use other parameters. Those would
2 5	include clinical findings, presence of sense of

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1	well-being, the examination of the patient, the
2	abdomen, the wound, the presence or absence of
3	fever.
4	\mathbb{Q} . At the time that you examined Carolyn, were
5	you aware of a CAT scan result from January 20th?
6	A. Yes.
7	\mathbb{Q} . When I say were you aware of them, did you
8	read the actual finding or did you look at the CAT
9	scan?
10	A. I don't recall. I usually do review the CAT
11	scan but I do remember the report.
12	Q. I think that it was suggested in your answer,
13	I always like a clear question and answer for the
14	record to the extent possible, when you say you
15	usually review, are you indicating for the record
16	you usually look at the film itself?
17	A. Yes. I don't recall if I looked at the film
18	in this particular situation.
19	Q. This situation you don't have a specific
20	recollection of which you did, although it would be
2 1	your custom to look at the CAT scan?
22	A. Correct.
23	Q, I gather from the answer that you feel a
24	certain degree of competence to review a CAT scan
25	film, to detect the presence and/or absence of an

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1	infective process in the abdominal cavity?
2	A. I usually review with a radiologist.
3	Q. In this case you just don't remember, the
4	note doesn't say you reviewed the film?
5	A. Correct.
6	\mathbb{Q} . That does or doesn't mean one way or the
7	other that you did, correct?
8	A. Correct.
9	${\mathbb Q}$. Have you had an opportunity to, subsequent to
10	the time I filed this lawsuit, to look at the film,
11	we won't say rereview?
12	A. No.
13	Q. Have you reviewed the findings as interpreted
14	by the radiologist of the CAT scan?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. Do you agree or disagree that the findings on
17	that CAT scan as reported by the radiologist are
18	not unequivocal for no infection?
19	MR. GOLDWASSER: I don't know,
20	that is a double negative.
21	Q. We're going back to English.
22	Do you agree or disagree with me
23	the findings on the film don't conclusively
24	establish there was no infection in the abdomen as
25	of January 20th?

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1	A. No single test can ever definitively conclude
2	that there is no infection, if that is answering
3	your question.
4	\mathbb{Q} . I think I understand the answer. Let me try
5	to ask a better question.
б	Would you agree with me the finding
7	of ascites obtained in the abdominal cavity could
8	be suggestive of abdominal infection?
9	A. The presence of ascites could be
10	postoperative, could be related to edema, could be
11	related to infection, it is not a sign of
12	infection, not diagnostic of infection, not
13	inconsistent with infection.
14	$\mathbb{Q}\cdot$ That is probably the question I should have
15	asked you, using the word inconsistent.
16	The picture that was presented on
17	the CAT scan did not exclude the possibility that
18	there was an intra-abdominal infection and could in
19	fact have been consistent with the presence of one
20	as of January 20th; do you agree with that?
2 1	A. I think that the interpretation of the CAT
22	scan as ${\tt I}$ recall was more weighted on the side of
23	no infection than infection, as I recall.
24	Q. By the radiologist?
25	A. Correct.

Q . You yourself as an infectious disease doctor 2 get an opportunity to look at those films, decide 3 the film in combination with the clinical setting could be more suggestive of infection than the 4 radiologist would be able to determine; would you 5 6 agree with that? Α. 7 We use that test as any other test. Q, What are corticosteroids, Doctor? 8 9 Α. Medications that are anti-inflammatory. Q., How do they affect the inflammatory process? 10 They blunt the inflammatory process. 11 Α. Q , 12 Can you explain simply how they do that? 13 They affect T cell function, halt the or Α. 14 affect the ability of white cells to work. In general, within your subspecialty, what is 15 Q, 16 your understanding of the general affect of 17 corticosteroids on the healing of an intestinal 18 anastomosis or surgical wound? In general it impedes the healing. 19 Α. Q. 20 That is something obviously you would have 21 been aware of at the time you examined Carolyn? 22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. Changing directions just for a second, we 24 will get back to that issue. 25 Had you work with Dr. Sonpal --

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	perhaps the use of my word worked with might make
2	you uncomfortable in the past had you been
3	involved in cases where Dr. Sonpal chose to
4	initiate and maintain the antibiotic regimen before
5	you came as the ID consult?
6	A. I can't recall that as being either an
7	individual circumstance or a pattern.
8	Q. Based upon your review of this chart, do you
9	believe that an infectious disease consultation
10	should have been requested prior to January 23 ,
11	1996?
12	MR. GOLDWASSER: Objection. You
13	may answer.
14	A. My surgical colleagues treat surgical
15	infection all the time without infectious disease
16	consultation. I wasn't there at the time, my
17	review of the record it appears the patient
18	seemingly improved and antibiotics were stopped.
19	There was an issue of having her discharged. To
20	answer your question, it seemed to the physician
2 1	taking care of her she was improving.
2 2	Q. All right, I'll accept that answer.
23	Prior to me interjecting that
2 4	thought that crossed my mind we were talking about
25	corticosteroids. In addition to impeding the

1	healing of a surgical wound or surgical
2	anastomosis, intestinal anastomosis, what affect do
3	the corticosteroids have on other signs and
4	symptoms of infection?
5	A. Corticosteroids may blunt signs of
6	infection.
7	Q. Blunt fever?
8	A. Can.
9	Q. Do you presume when you are seeing a patient
10	who is on corticosteroids who has a fever, that
11	fever may in actuality be a little bit higher if
12	the steroids are withdrawn?
13	A. I don't think I would presume that at all. I
14	think if we want to refer to this specific case.
15	Q. Okay.
16	A. The patient had no difficulty in generating a
17	rather significant fever while on a fair amount of
18	corticosteroids so I don't think that in this
19	specific case that would be relevant.
20	${\mathbb Q}\cdot$ Following what you just said, she was able to
2 1	generate a rather significant fever on steroids,
22	I'm asking you if you have the understanding based
23	on your training and experience in infectious
24	disease medicine whether the temperature would have
25	recorded higher but for the administration ${f of}$

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1	steroids?
2	A. No, I believe she had an infection, the fever
3	was high, she was treated surgically and medically
4	and her fever came down, I think that is clear.
5	Q. What is peritonitis?
6	A. Inflammation of the peritoneum.
7	\mathbb{Q} . Just a general explanation so we can ask a
8	question, how does peritonitis arise following the
9	perforation of the secum?
10	A. The peritoneal cavity is soiled with
11	intestinal content, which includes bacteria,
12	inflammation occurs.
13	\mathbb{Q} . Going back, I just had forgotten to ask a
14	question in terms of the affect of the
15	corticosteroids on signs and symptoms of the
16	infection.
17	You indicated the answer it does
18	blunt fever, does/can, does it also affect your
19	classical clinical symptoms of abdominal rigidity
20	or stomach pain?
2 1	A. It can.
22	Q. That ties with my next question. The
23	corticosteroids themselves, can they specifically
24	affect the signs and symptoms of peritonitis?
25	A. In this particular case she had no difficulty

1	mounting signs and symptoms of peritonitis, her
2	belly became soft while on corticosteroids.
3	Related to the case ${\tt I}$ believe the corticosteroids
4	did not blunt the signs and symptoms of the
5	peritonitis.
6	Q. At the conclusion of your infectious disease
7	consult, as you read into the record, it seemed my
8	recollection is you said, the last sentence, may
9	treat with Fluconazole. Tell me what is
10	Fluconazole?
11	A. It's an antifungal agent.
12	Q, Why were you recommending treating with
13	Fluconazole at that point?
14	MR, GOLDWASSER: He said may
15	treat with.
16	MISS KOLIS: Excuse me.
17	MR. GOLDWASSER: You said
18	recommend. I thought he said may treat with.
19	Q. To clarify Mr. Goldwasser's appropriate
20	interjection into this, so the record is clear you
21	say may treat with Fluconazole, you were telling
22	them what they could put on it if they wanted to?
23	A. I was expressing I may treat with
24	Fluconazole.
25	Q. You may treat. In that context at that point

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1	you had not made a decision to treat with
2	Fluconazole?
3	A. No, she had urine that grew yeast, I wanted
4	to recheck the urine after the Foley was removed.
5	See, often times yeast will colonize surfaces,
6	doesn't represent a significant infection,
7	particularly if there is a catheter in place like a
8	Foley catheter.
9	The Foley was removed for one day,
10	a repeat urine culture was ordered and checked. If
11	that was growing, that was still positive with the
12	Foley being removed, given her situation,
13	Fluconazole may have been used.
14	Q. You never did end up using Fluconazole on the
15	wound then?
16	A. The wound was clean, it was beefy,
17	granulating, there were no signs of infection in
18	the wound at the time I saw the patient. At that
19	time ${f I}$ felt that the wound was not infected, at
20	that time.
21	The organism isolated represented
22	surface colonization. My concern with Fluconazole
23	was she had yeast in her urine, I wanted to see
24	what her urine grew, if anything, after the Foley
25	was removed, the urine was sterile.

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1	Q. You are indicating to me that at the time
2	that you checked can you point me back to the
3	note where you describe the wound?
4	A. I don't have that written on this note.
5	Q. So the note doesn't have a description of the
6	wound, does it?
7	A. No.
8	Q. So you just related a description of the
9	wound, are you doing that from your memory?
10	A. There are numerous notes by the surgeons
11	about the wound before, during the time I saw the
12	patient and after the time I saw the patient, which
13	I don't have a specific recollection of the wound
14	as we speak now.
15	My note indicated that there were
16	no significant signs of infection, that the wound
17	was granulating and beefy, which was supportive of
18	that.
19	Q, What is mucosal contamination?
20	A. Mucosal is being the urinary tract, bladder
2 1	mucosa.
22	${\mathbb Q},$ These cultures that you were asked to consult
23	on, you are saying they were cultures taken on
24	the 16th?
25	A. Correct.
Q., Cultures from where? 1 From the wound. 2 Α. 3 Q, You weren't consulted because of a concern of 4 urinary tract infection, were you, or culture growing from the urinary tract? 5 6 No, but the time I saw the patient, during Α. 7 the time I saw the patient that was positive, one wanted to be sure that yeast had disappeared. 8 9 Patients who, particularly a patient who has a neurological condition, once the Foley is removed, 10 11 the organism can grow if it actually is still 12 there. That was the reason for checking the urine 13 after the Foley was removed. She eliminated that 14 organism from the urinary tract as the catheter was 15 removed. 16 Q. That was the same organism that was found in 17 the abdominal cavity at the time of surgery, 18 correct? 19 It was a Candida species, I don't know that Α. 20 was the same species, it was a Candida. 21 Q, Why had Carolyn been removed from antibiotics prior to you seeing her? 22 23 MR. GOLDWASSER: You only know 24 what the chart will tell you, you can't guess what 25 an other doctor's thought process was.

1	A. My recollection of the case, the surgeons
2	felt the patient was improving, had decided to stop
3	antibiotics. That was their sense. I assume that
4	is why they stopped the antibiotics, because the
5	patient was improving.
6	Q. There is your reference to infectious disease
7	point of view, I'm not asking you to guess what
8	anyone was thinking, is there another reason you
9	are aware of in a general principle of infectious
10	disease medicine you remove a person from
11	antibiotics other than the sense they are getting
12	better?
13	A. Yes, if a patient has persistent fever, that
14	could be a drug fever, you want to stop
15	antibiotics.
16	
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2 1	
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23	
24	It starts at the top $1-19-96$, that
25	looks like shorthand afebrile, VSS, that is the

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1	note I'm referring to. Towards the middle portion
2	of the page, Dr. Sonpal I'm assuming this is
3	Dr. Sonpal's note and signature, we haven't deposed
4	him, let's assume that is who it is says
5	hyperglycemia secondary to steroid. Impression
б	does that say the word impression to you or is that
7	something else, if you are familiar with Dr.
8	Sonpal's handwriting?
9	A. Hyperglycemia secondary to steroids then
10	what?
11	${f Q}\cdot$ Can you make out the word between steroids
12	and sepsis?
13	A. No. Usually impression is at the beginning
14	of a line, that isn't.
15	\mathbb{Q} . I would agree, that is why I'm asking.
16	A. That is doubt.
17	Q. You think that is doubt?
18	A. Yes.
19	Q, Fine.
20	A. He's saying hyperglycemia secondary to
2 1	steroid, doubt sepsis. Makes sense.
22	Q, Had you read that note prior to your
23	examination of Carolyn?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. If you would turn to $1-20-96$, top of the

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1	page, did you read that note before you examined
2	Carolyn; do you know?
3	A. I can't tell you at this point if I read the
4	note. I read through the chart when I saw Carolyn,
5	I read the notes. ${ t I}$ read all the notes before when
6	I saw Carolyn Yarborough.
7	Q. This note pretty clearly indicates the white
8	blood count is still up at that point?
9	A. Right.
10	Q. He's recommending a CT and pelvis, is that
11	the way you read that?
12	A. Which note, the 19th?
13	MR, GOLDWASSER: Turn the page.
14	Q. 20th, top of the page?
15	A. Yes.
16	Q. At the point would you suspect that
17	Dr. Sonpal when I say suspect I know you don't
18	know what he thinks does this note indicate to
19	you that there is a test being ordered to determine
20	whether or not there is infection?
21	A. Yes, he's concerned about it.
22	Q. He's not worried about that white blood count
23	going $\mathfrak{u}\mathfrak{p}$ because of the wound infection, the
24	external wound infection; would you agree with
25	that?

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Correct. 1 Α. Q. 2 That's why he's ordering a CT. By the way, what is his description 3 of the wound at that point in time? 4 5 Wound is healing well except for slight Α. б infection in central portion. By the 23rd you are saying you didn't see any 7 Q, sign of infection in the wound? 8 The next day granulating nicely, incision 9 Α. clean and granulating on the 22nd. Incision clean, 10 unchanged on the 23rd. On the 24th wound clean, 11 12 pink and boggy. Correction, clean, pink and beefy. On the 25th incision granulating nicely. 13 14 These are all indications of a wound that is not infected. 15 Q. 16 We're talking the surface wound though? 17 Α. Correct. The condition of the surface wound does not Q. 18 necessarily tell us what the condition is 19 20 intra-abdominally; would you agree with that? 21 Α. Correct. 22 Q. Let's switch gears again, try to be organized with my questions. 23 24 You indicated initially that you 25 were called in on this consultation to interpret

1	cultures that were drawn on the 16th?
2	A. Yes.
3	Q, So you came in, did this physical exam, made
4	some recommendations, you also testified that you
5	did read all of the records. Of course by reading
6	those records you would have been aware that there
7	had been some increasing white blood counts,
8	correct?
9	A. Yes.
10	Q. CT was done to look for intra-abdominal
11	infection, right?
12	A. Correct.
13	Q. Did you, Doctor, on the 23rd, make a
14	determination that there was no possibility of
15	intra-abdominal infection in this person?
16	A. Can you repeat the wording?
17	Q. The ending part was did you make a
18	determination on January 23rd that there was not
19	the possibility of intra-abdominal infection in
20	Carolyn Yarborough?
21	A. I can't answer the question in those terms.
22	There is never a situation there is no
23	possibility. I didn't find any signs of
24	significant infection. I felt the cultures that
25	were done on the 16th represented surface and

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1	mucosal colonization. Dr. Sonpal on his note of
2	the 22nd noted urine Candida, wound Candida and
3	enterococcus, consult ID. His request was,
4	Dr. Bass, what do you make of the cultures.
5	I felt the clinical picture of the
6	patient at that time did not indicate signs of
7	infection. As far as no possibility, that is not
8	possible.
9	Q, Once again, the asker asked a poor question,
10	doesn't have anything to do with you. Let me
11	rephrase this.
12	Did you perceive or was it
13	indicated to you that part of your assessment of
14	this patient was to determine the existence or
15	nonexistence of an infective process
16	intra-abdominally, not the wound, I'm talking about
17	the intra-abdominal infection?
18	A. No, my recollection of this case was the CAT
19	scan was done, there wasn't evidence of infection,
20	according to the radiologist. The wound cultures
21	were obtained essentially six days, seven days
22	earlier, a week before ${\tt I}$ saw the patient, they just
23	wanted to know what I thought about those
24	cultures.
25	They felt the patient was

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improving. The elevated white count was considered 1 2 part and parcel of her steroid therapy. The white count had come down, her temperature had come 3 down. 4 The answer to your question is the 5 surgeons felt as though the patient had improved, 6 7 they wanted an interpretation of these cultures that were obtained, that is what Dr. Sonpal 8 writes in his note. That note is January 22nd in 9 10 the middle of the page. 11 Q, I'm asking you based on your review what the purpose of the consult was. 12 13 Obviously it's important to me to know that, Α. it's right there on January 22nd. 14 15 You asked me before, by the way, if they were asking me about the urinary Candida, the 16 17 answer is yes. 18 Q, Understand there is no order in the chart 19 that let's me know the purpose for the consult. Ι 20 need to know if you knew what the purpose was? 21 Let me share with you the protocol here at **A** . 2.2 Saint Luke's. 23 Q, That would be fine. 24 Α. Consults are not placed in the order. 25 Consults require a doctor-to-doctor discussion. Α

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1	phone call. So that is why it probably was not in
2	the orders.
3	Q. So you clarified that's how they occur at
4	Saint Luke's, someone will call you?
5	A. Right.
6	\mathbb{Q} . Say, Dr. Bass, I hope you are not too busy to
7	come down see my patient, tell you what they need?
8	A. My recollection of this case, the surgeons
9	did not feel the patient had ongoing
10	intra-abdominal sepsis, that there was some surface
11	cultures they wanted some interpretation of.
12	\mathbb{Q} . Do you agree with me that it is medically
13	prudent to change a person's antibiotic regimen, if
14	you will, from empiric to specific once you
15	identified certain organisms?
16	A. Referring to this specific case?
17	Q, We can do that in a second. Generally
18	speaking, can you give me generally speaking?
19	A. It depends on the organism. If for example
20	an organism is isolated from the sputum, a patient
21	is clinically improving, we often times ignore it.
22	If an organism is isolated from the
23	wound, or even isolated from the peritoneal cavity,
24	doesn't necessarily mean the antibiotics need to be
25	changed.

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Q, In this instance do you agree with me after 1 the intra-abdominal contents were cultured out 2 3 there was no change in the antibiotic regimen to cover the Candida or enterococcus? 4 Α. That's what the record says. 5 6 Q, I believe that is what it says. 7 Α. I wasn't there at that time, I saw the patient on January 23rd. 8 MR. GOLDWASSER: You are asking 9 10 after January 23rd? 11 Q. No, I'm asking you first of all obviously you know this case deals with an infection I claim 12 should have been treated that wasn't treated. Did 13 14 you understand that from reading the complaint and 15 looking at the record? 16 A. (Indicating affirmatively.) MR. GOLDWASSER: He's never seen 17 18 the complaint. We agreed I would accept service 19 for him, that is all right. Q, Generally let me tell you what I allege. 2.0 MR. GOLDWASSER: He knows that. 21 22 Q. Infection should have been treated that 23 wasn't, that ultimately led to this woman's death. 24 Let me ask the question in this context. 25 In this instance I think that

,	probably 30, 40 minutes ago we established that
2	there was treatment with antibiotics empirically,
3	Flagyl, Gentamycin?
4	A. Cefotetan.
5	Q. I believe you agreed with me those didn't
6	specifically cover Candida or enterococcus; did I
7	understand that testimony?
8	A. Yes.
9	Q. In this instance, because those were
10	intra-abdominal organisms which grew from a
11	situation where the woman had peritonitis, don`t
12	you agree that medication should nave been added or
13	the regimen changed to specifically cover for those
14	organisms?
15	MR. GOLDWASSER: When should it
16	have been changed? I'll let you answer.
17	Q. You couldn't change them until you knew what
18	the cultures were. Once the culture results were
19	reported out on the 14th of January, that's when my
20	question is don't you believe they should have been
21	changed to cover for those?
22	A. I can't speak to the thinking of surgeons who
23	were taking care of the case. I will say this:
2 4	The isolation of enterococcus, isolation of yeast
25	does not necessarily mean that there are

1 significant pathogens. There is no consensus on 2 whether or not a Candida isolated from the 3 peritoneal cavity even needs to be treated. I'm not saying shouldn't be, I'm saying there is no 4 consensus it should be. Same for the 5 6 enterococcus. The original animal model showed 7 that antibiotic therapy was not effective against enterococcus. Many people feel that enterococcus 8 is a second rate pathogen, doesn't necessarily need 9 10 to be treated. The belief at one point has been 11 that polymicrobial anaerobes, aerobes, yeast, the 12 treatment of gram negative anaerobes is crucial. Whether or not all the organisms 13 need to be treated absolutely specifically, I don't 14 believe there is a uniform consensus about that. 15 16 Q, Do you believe they need to be treated? In general? 17 Α. Q, 18 Yes. 19 I'm having difficulty answering the Α. question. In this particular case they weren't 20 2 1 treated. They weren't treated because the 22 23 patient seemingly improved, she did. She improved to the point she was discharged from the hospital, 24 never receiving an antibiotic directed against 25

enterococcus or Candida. She came on steroids with 1 hyperglycemia and survived. To all observers was 2 in good enough shape to leave the hospital. She 3 was in the hospital for well over two weeks. 4 5 To answer your question did she need to have these organisms treated, I can't б really answer given the course that took place. 7 When I saw her on January 23rd, she had no clinical 8 signs of infection that I was clear about. 9 10 Q. No clinical signs you were clear about, is 11 that what your testimony is? 12 There were no signs of significant infection, Α. 13 that is what I wrote in my note, that's what I felt 14 at the time. Her temperature had come down, white 15 count down, CAT scan showed no evidence of abscess, 16 all the findings on CAT scan were consistent with 17 postoperative change, the patient improved, wound 18 became beefy, she was awake, nursing notes 19 confirmed that, she went out of the hospital. 20 Q. Were you asked to give an opinion as to 21 whether she was an appropriate candidate for 22 discharge on the 23rd? 23 Α. On the 23rd? Let me rephrase that question. If my English 24 Q. 25 teacher was here, she could write the questions for

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1	me.
2	As part of your assessment of the
3	23rd of January had anyone asked you for an opinion
4	as to whether or not Carolyn should be discharged
5	or not?
6	A. No.
7	${ extsf{Q}}$. Going back to the question I asked you, I
8	asked if you believe, not general community
9	consensus, how you practice medicine as an
10	infectious disease physician, would you have
11	treated the enterococcus and Candida with a
12	specific antibiotic?
13	MR. GOLDWASSER: I'm going to
14	have a little trouble with this, Donna, Now you
15	are making him an expert witness pertaining to
16	matters in which he's not involved.
17	Q. Let me withdraw the question.
18	You are talking consensus. When I
19	sat down today I noticed that you happen to own
20	Mandell's on infectious disease; is that right?
2 1	A. Yes.
22	Q, You or the hospital. Do you consider
23	Mandell's authoritative on the therapeutic regimen
24	for intra-abdominal antibiotics?
25	A. I think there are many authoritative

sources. I don't believe Mandell's represents the single authoritative source. There are a number of places one can go, there are a number of things in 4 textbooks, other textbooks, that represent opinions 5 offered by the authors. Q, Do I gather then you do consider it to be one б 7 of the authoritative texts on that subject matter? 8 Α. One of the sources I refer to, Q. Do you agree with me enterococcus is one of 9 the most virulent of abdominal organisms? 10 11 Α. Absolutely not. 12 Q. You don't think it is? 13 Α. No. Q; Just asking if you agree or disagree. 14 15 From your review of the autopsy and 16 discharge summary in this particular matter, what is your understanding of Carolyn's cause of death? 17 18 Α. She left the hospital and returned I 19 understand five days later in extremis, 20hypotensive, acidotic, she was in desperate shape. 2 1 The feeling was she was in desperate shape and 22 subsequently died. 23 I was surprised to learn from the 24 autopsy that she had transmural bowel ischemia, 25 which to me represents a significant finding.



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1 Α. Correct. Q, 2 If I indicate to you that what was cultured in Carolyn at Huron Road was enterococcus, same 3 variety we found intra-abdominally at the time of 4 surgery at Saint Luke's, Candida, those were found 5 to be the two organisms at work in her sepsis, do б you have an opinion if changing her antibiotic 7 8 regimen while she was at Saint Luke's to something 9 that covered for those would have changed the 10 outcome? Objection. MR. GOLDWASSER: You 11 12 may answer. If one concludes that the bowel ischemia was 13 Α. 14 a major contributor to her septic shock, if one 15 also concludes that the patient was colonized with enterococcus which would include the 16 17 qastrointestinal tract, then the septic shock which 18 was reflected by the positive blood culture for 19 enterococcus could easily have been attributed to 20 bowel ischemia. That would not have been affected 21 at all by changing antibiotics. Q. 22 Have you spoken with Dr. Rabin --23 Α. No. 24 Q. -- who prosected this? 25 Α. No.

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1	Q. If Dr. Rabin opined that the bowel ischemia,
2	the process is the result of the bowel becoming
3	ischemic because of the abscess, the abscess that
4	was found you read the autopsy, found where the
5	abscess was?
6	A. Yes.
7	Q. That was at the approximate location of the
8	surgery, correct?
9	A. I can't speak to those details.
10	Q. Might be out of your range. I don't mean
11	that disrespectfully. Don't take it that way.
12	I gather you don't have an opinion
13	on the question I asked whether or not treatment at
14	Saint Luke's for enterococcus and Candida would
15	have changed the outcome?
16	A. I do have an opinion. The case speaks for
17	itself to some extent. Remember now she came in
18	with a serious infection on the 9th of January,
19	left 16 days later without being treated for
20	enterococcus and Candida. Then comes in five days
2 1	later in extremis, why wasn't she wasn't in
22	extremis before.
23	What had changed, despite the fact
24	abscesses were found at surgery, there was also
25	bowel ischemia. It may have well been the bowel

ischemia was an intercurrent, unrelated event. I'm 1 having difficulty why she didn't die at Saint 2 Luke's Hospital or why did she improve at Saint 3 Luke's Hospital if these organisms were ultimately 4 contributory to her death. I'm asking you the 5 question. б Q. When the case is over maybe we will have 7 lunch and debate it. I'm asking you. 8 I don't think either -- I think that raises a Α. 9 10 serious question as to what ultimately happened on the 30th of January that caused this lady to have 11 12 an exacerbation that abruptly brought her to Huron 13 Hospital. Do you have to MR. GOLDWASSER: 14 15 get that? Let me get THE WITNESS: 16 17 this. _ - - - -18 (Interruption in proceedings.) 19 _ _ _ _ _ 20 Q. Doctor, have you discussed Carolyn's case 21 with any of the other doctors since I filed the 22 lawsuit? 23 A. I mentioned it in passing to one of my 24 25 partners.

1	Q. You haven't discussed this case with, sat
2	down with Dr. Sonpal?
3	A. I'm sorry, one of the members?
4	Q. Yes, not anyone in the group.
5	A. Absolutely not, no.
6	Q. Anyone else involved?
7	A. No.
8	Q. In your note you indicated under your
9	assessment that patient is at high risk for
10	superinfection. I know what that says in English.
11	Can you tell me what you are trying to convey to
12	medical personnel, I assume that is who reads the
13	note, what you are trying to convey in terms of
14	writing that?
15	A. Something that is resistant to all
16	antibiotics, Vancomycin. We're being inundated
17	with Vancomycin resistent enterococcus. We need to
18	be careful with the use of Vancomycin and this
19	would be the agent needed in the situation. We
20	have a high risk of VRE, Vancomycin resistent
21	enterococcus. That is the point I'm trying to
22	convey.
23	Q. So I'm clear about it, when you say
24	Vancomycin would have been effective for the
25	enterococcus

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1	A. That is not what I said.
2	Q. Give it to me again.
3	A. Vancomycin wouldn't have been the antibiotic
4	one would choose except in a clinically significant
5	infection due to this organism.
6	Q, In writing this, that the patient is at high
7	risk for superinfection, you were trying to convey
8	not to use Vancomycin?
9	A. If for example treating with Vancomycin for
10	this patient, who did not have signs of significant
11	infection, it would be very likely that she would
12	be colonized or become colonized with Vancomycin
13	resistent enterococcus and if she became colonized
14	with Vancomycin resistent enterococcus, does
15	develop an infection down the road, this could be
16	an infection that couldn't be treated at all.
17	That's thinking now that antibiotic
18	therapy is specifically against efecium, sensitive
19	only to the Vancomycin, what we want to do is try
20	to prevent superinfection. The other concern of
2 1	course is other superinfections that may arise with
22	the use of antibiotics.
23	Q. I'm trying to find out what you were trying
24	to communicate where it seems to me you, correct me
25	where I'm wrong, taking at face value what you

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testified to, you were not concerned with surface
enterococcus, right?

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The point I'm making is if one treats for 3 Α. surface colonization for enterococcus, the patient 4 doesn't have a significant infection, the next 5 6 thing you know the next surface culture is going to 7 grow YRE or intestinal culture grows VRE, the patient will need isolation, may not be able to go 8 back to the nursing home. May ultimately develop 9 an infection that can't be treated at that point. 10 11 Q. It's been pointed out to me by my associate, she had a chance to cruise through your CV, you've 12 13 done research in clinical epidemiology of YRE, 14 that's what that note means; is that right? Well my partner and I published a paper 15 Α. regarding the VRE acquisition. It's a case 16 report. I wouldn't call myself an expert on VRE or 17 its epidemiology. 18 19 Q. I didn't know, I haven't read your CV, is 20 that a publication on your CV? 21 Α. It should be. You have also published on "Combination 22 Q , 23 Antibiotic Therapy, " correct? That is a long, long time ago. Pediatric 24 Α. Clinics of North America where I was a pediatric 25

person, when I was a child. 1 2 Q. You know I'm going to run out, read this, Mr. Goldwasser will tell you I read everything 3 people publish, do you remember what you reported 4 on in that article "Combination Antibiotic Therapy" 5 you published in 1983, were you for it or against 6 7 it? It was a review article describing the role 8 Α. of combination of antibiotics, pros and cons for 9 various agents in various clinical situations. 10 11 Q, Any of the agents that are at issue in this case contained in that article? 12 13 Α. I can't recall. 14 Q. No problem, I'll read it. I can tell you Fluconazole is not. 15 Α. 16 Q. Fair enough. 17 Cefotetan is not. I expect Gentamycin is. Α. 18 Q, Because that has been around for a while. 19 Let me ask you another question: 20 Postoperatively in a patient like this, if someone 21 was thinking that there is an infection 22 intra-abdominally that had not been treated or 23 resolved, how difficult **is** it to draw a fluid 24 sample from the area indicated on the CT scan and culture it? 25

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1	A. If there was a localized collection it could
2	be done rather easily. With a small amount of
3	ascites it may be difficult.
4	Q. That's something as an infectious disease
5	doctor you order if you feel a necessity for?
6	A. Something I would discuss with a surgeon,
7	discuss the practically with a radiologist.
8	Q. Along those issues of localization, do you
9	agree with me that corticosteroids can also prevent
10	the formation of a localized site of fluid?
11	A. It can. It had no difference in this since
12	at autopsy she has an abscess which is pretty well
13	localized, which she did not have on January 20th I
14	might add.
15	Q. I agree with that, we didn't see that, did
16	we?
17	A. No.
18	MISS KOLIS: Doctor, I don't
19	have any other questions. I will have today's
20	deposition transcribed, your counselor I'm certain
21	will instruct you as to whether you should read
22	your deposition or waive your right to read it.
23	MR. GOLDWASSER: Connie, send me
24	a copy and I'll get you signature.
25	MISS KOLIS: I'll waive the

seven day reading requirement since we don't need to read it in seven. Thank you a very much, Doctor. ----(Plaintiff's Exhibits A and B marked for identification.) _ _ _ _ _ (Deposition concluded; signature not waived.) - - - - -2 1



1 | The State of Ohio,

2 County of Cuyahoga.

<u>CERTIFICATE:</u>

I, Constance Campbell, Notary Public within 3 and for the State of Ohio, do hereby certify that 4 5 the within named witness, STEVEN BASS, M.D. was by me first duly sworn to testify the truth in the 6 cause aforesaid; that the testimony then given was 7 reduced by me to stenotypy in the presence of said 8 witness, subsequently transcribed onto a computer 9 under my direction, and that the foregoing is a 10 true and correct transcript of the testimony so 11 12 given as aforesaid.

I do further certify that this deposition was taken at the time and place as specified in the foregoing caption, and that I am not a relative, counsel or attorney of either party, or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland, Ohio, this 31st day of October, 1997.
Ohio, this 31st day of October, 1997.
Constance Campbell, Stenographic Report
Constance Campbell, Stenographic Report
Notary Public/State of Ohio.
Commission expiration: January 14, 1998.

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