

1 State of Ohio,)
 2 County of Cuyahoga.) SS:

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4 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

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6 Kimberly Richley,)
 7 Plaintiff,)
 8 vs.) Case No.: CV035N510
 9 Reichenbach Family) Carolyn Friedland, J.
 10 Chiropractic Professional Co.,)
 11 et al.)
 12 Defendants.)

13 - - -

14 Telephonic deposition of Amardeep S. Chauhan, D.O.,
 15 a witness herein, called by the defendants for cross-
 16 examination pursuant to the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure,
 17 taken before Jacqueline L. Reichert, Notary Public in and
 18 for the State of Ohio, at the offices of Precision
 19 Orthopedics Specialists, 7575 Northcliff Avenue,
 20 Suite 300, Brooklyn, Ohio 44144, on Friday,
 21 September 10, 2004, commencing at 3:36 p.m.

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DIRECT

CROSS

Amardeep S. Chauhan, D.O.

By Mr. Regnier

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By Mr. Ruf

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DEFENDANT'S

MARKED

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 On behalf of the Plaintiff:
 (via telephone)

3 Mark W. Ruf, Esq.
 4 Hoyt Block Suite 300
 700 West St. Clair Avenue
 5 Cleveland, Ohio 44113
 216-687-1999
 6

7 On behalf of the Defendants:

8 Michael W. Regnier, Esq.
 Eastman & Smith, Ltd.
 9 One SeaGate, 24th Floor
 Toledo, Ohio 43699-0032
 10 419-241-6000

11 - - -

1 AMARDEEP S. CHAUHAN, D.O.,
2 of lawful age, being first duly sworn, as hereinafter
3 certified, was examined and testified as follows:

4 MR. REGNIER: This is Mike Regnier,
5 and I represent the defendants in this case, in the
6 Kim Richley versus Reichenbach Chiropractic case.

7 CROSS-EXAMINATION

8 By Mr. Regnier:

9 Q Could you state your full name for the record,
10 please?

11 A First name Amardeep, A-m-a-r-d-e-e-p. Last name
12 C-h-a-u-h-a-n.

13 Q You pronounce that Chauhan?

14 A Yes, sir.

15 Q Can you state your professional address, please?

16 A Main office is in Chardon, that's
17 150 Seventh Avenue, Suite 200, Chardon, Ohio 44024.

18 Q And, Doctor, as you know, and so the record is
19 clear, we're at two different locations because I'm
20 at your other office in Brooklyn, Ohio. And so
21 when we make reference to different materials and
22 charts, please let me know if you don't have
23 something or if you're not sure what I'm referring
24 to, please let me know and we'll figure it out.

25 Okay?

1 A Okay.

2 Q Do you have a file with you, Doctor?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Do you have your records of Kim Richley's

5 treatment?

6 A Yes.

7 Q What else do you have, Doctor?

8 A That's all I have in my possession.

9 Q Doctor, do you have a copy of your CV with you by

10 any chance?

11 A No, I don't.

12 Q I am going to give to the court reporter a copy of

13 the CV -- your CV which was faxed to me by Mr. Ruf

14 earlier on in this case. And we'll ask that you --

15 when you have an opportunity to review it and make

16 sure it's accurate; is that fair?

17 A Okay.

18 Q Doctor, I understand that you went -- please state

19 for the record your speciality, please?

20 A Physical medicine and rehabilitation.

21 Q And you went to Youngstown State University for

22 your bachelor's degree; is that right?

23 A Right.

24 Q Did you have a year off in between undergrad and

25 medical school?

- 1 A About nine months.
- 2 Q What did you do during that time, Doctor?
- 3 A Worked.
- 4 Q Did you immediately apply to medical school?
- 5 A Actually, you know, what happened was I finished my
6 undergraduate degree before the four years. I
7 actually took about three and a half, so I finished
8 early. And medical school enrollment didn't start
9 until the fall, so I had some off time.
- 10 Q You're a December grad?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q What did you do in between?
- 13 A I worked.
- 14 Q What did you do? What was your job?
- 15 A Specifically I was working, I believe, as a
16 transporter in a hospital.
- 17 Q You then went to Ohio University,
18 College of Osteopathic Medicine; is that correct?
- 19 A Right.
- 20 Q How did you choose osteopathy, Doctor?
- 21 A I had been exposed to osteopathic medicine on
22 several occasions. I had a couple different
23 interviews at medical schools. And I liked the
24 campus down in Ohio University and --
- 25 Q That's it?

1 A Right.

2 Q Doctor, have you had any further educational
3 training since you received your
4 Doctor Of Osteopathy degree?

5 A Just my internship and residency training.

6 Q Have you been board certified in any specialties?

7 A In physical medicine and rehabilitation.

8 Q When did you obtain that board certification?

9 A I obtained that in 2001. I mean, as soon as I was
10 eligible, I passed the boards on my first try, both
11 the oral and written.

12 Q It doesn't look like that's listed on your CV, what
13 was the speciality?

14 A Physical medicine and rehabilitation.

15 Q What does that entail? What's the focus of that
16 speciality?

17 A You know, rehabilitation from rehabilitating
18 problems whether they're injuries, or strokes, or,
19 you know, it's a very large speciality. Anywhere
20 from rehabilitating children with cerebral palsy to
21 rehabilitating spinal cord injuries, brain
22 injuries, musculoskeletal injuries. We do EMG
23 nerve conduction studies as well. So it's a very
24 large speciality.

25 Q You received training in EMG studies as part of

1 that certification?

2 A Right.

3 Q Do you need to have that certification in order to
4 do an EMG study?

5 A Well, you have to be -- you don't have to be, but,
6 you know, generally it's a neurologist and physical
7 medicine rehabilitation doctor that generally do
8 EMG studies.

9 Q You're licensed by the State of Ohio?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Do you hold licenses in any other states? I'm
12 sorry, could you hear me, Doctor, are you licensed
13 in any other states?

14 A Yeah. I'm sorry, I said no.

15 Q I'm sorry. Have you had any action taken on your
16 license?

17 A No.

18 Q Do you hold privileges at any institutions,
19 Doctor?

20 A Yes.

21 Q Where?

22 A Geauga Hospital, at the University Hospital,
23 Geauga Regional Hospital, St. Vincent Charity down
24 in Cleveland. That's it right now.

25 Q Have you ever had any action taken on your

1 privileges?

2 A No.

3 Q Have you been practicing continually since
4 graduation from medical school?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Have you published anything, Doctor?

7 A Not since I completed my residency.

8 Q I have two publications listed, one from '96 and
9 one from '98; is that it?

10 A Yeah, that's all.

11 Q Do you hold any teaching positions?

12 A No.

13 Q Can you describe your practice for me, Doctor?

14 A It's a non-surgical orthopedic practice for the
15 most part. I do rehabilitation in musculoskeletal
16 injuries, which encompass work injuries, sports
17 injuries. I also treat chronic pain. I do EMG
18 nerve conduction studies. And I'm one of the
19 physicians in a nine physician orthopedic group.

20 Q How many offices do you folks have?

21 A We have four offices.

22 Q Do you focus your practice at any particular
23 office?

24 A You know, if I had to say where I spend most of my
25 time, it's probably in the Chardon office.

1 Q Do you have any specialty or niche as far as your
2 practice goes?

3 A You know -- I mean, the musculoskeletal
4 non-surgical orthopedics is my niche within
5 physical medicine and rehabilitation. So I guess
6 you could say musculoskeletal injury. I do a fair
7 amount of chronic pain management as well.

8 Q That was my next question. Are you a chronic pain
9 management specialist?

10 A I'm not board certified in pain medicine.

11 Q That's a separate specialty?

12 A Right. Well, you know, there's board certification
13 now that has recently become available where
14 there's residencies available to specifically treat
15 in pain management and pain treatment. And I am
16 not a pain management specialist.

17 Q Have you taken any coursework toward obtaining that
18 sort of speciality?

19 A No. I mean, the requirement now is that you
20 actually have to do a two year fellowship, so I do
21 not plan on doing that.

22 Q Doctor, when were you contacted by plaintiff's
23 counsel in this case?

24 A I'm not sure when I was contacted. I was contacted
25 to do this deposition. I did receive a request for

1 kind of a summary of what my prognosis was for
2 Kim Richley back in the spring of this year. But I
3 can't specifically recall exactly when I was
4 contacted.

5 Q Do you have any letters from either Mr. Ruf or
6 Mr. Patno? That's Ms. Richley's attorneys?

7 A Not in my possession, no.

8 Q By possession, do you mean you don't have any in
9 your office or you don't have any in front of you?

10 A I don't have any in front of me.

11 Q Do you know if you have some in your office?

12 A I'm sure I have at least one.

13 Q Do you have a separate file, Doctor, of
14 correspondence and billings and things like that
15 related to Kim Richley that's not in front of you
16 right now?

17 A Do I have a separate file of correspondence? I'm
18 not sure I understand the question.

19 Q Do you have a separate file related to this lawsuit
20 somewhere in your office?

21 A Not that I'm aware of.

22 Q Where would the correspondence from plaintiff's
23 counsel be then, just somewhere in one of your
24 offices?

25 A Yeah, it would go in her chart. We don't have a

1 separate chart for medical/legal cases or what have
2 you.

3 Q Are any of those letters in the chart in front of
4 you?

5 A No. And I don't have Kim Richley's chart in front
6 of me. I've just got copies of my notes from her
7 chart.

8 Q You don't have your office record in front of you?

9 A I have copies of my office visits. I don't have
10 her entire chart in front of me, no.

11 Q Do you have her history and physical forms in front
12 of you?

13 A I have -- the first note I have in from me is from
14 June 4th, 2002.

15 Q I tell you what, let's make this easier. Instead
16 of me guessing, can you, please, list what you have
17 in front of you, Doctor?

18 A I have office notes from June 4th, 2002 through
19 August 19th, 2004. I've got a log of her
20 prescriptions. I've got my EMG nerve conduction
21 studies. I have Dr. Likavec's operative note. I
22 have a functional capacity evaluation that was done
23 on July 20th, 2004.

24 Q What was that date of that, Doctor?

25 A July 20th, 2004.

1 I have some physical therapy prescriptions
2 we provided to Kim. And I have some progress notes
3 from the physical therapist. And I also have my
4 letter to Mr. Ruf that was on -- dictated on
5 April 15th, 2004?

6 Q Anything else?

7 A No, sir.

8 Q By prescription log, do you mean one of those
9 separate sheets where all that shows on there is
10 what she was prescribed and when?

11 A Right.

12 Q What's the date of that log as far as how far back
13 it goes, when to when?

14 A It goes from July 30th, 2001 is the first entry.
15 And the most recent entry is August 31st, 2004.

16 Q And what was the date of your last treatment note?
17 I have August of 2004, what was the day?

18 A August 19th.

19 Q Doctor, who did the functional capacity evaluation?

20 A A physical therapist. I'll spell his name for
21 you. You know, I don't see his name readily
22 available here. I mean John Strychasz is the one
23 who usually does our functional capacity evals.

24 Q That's in-house? That was done by
25 Precision Orthpeadics?

1 A Yeah, that was our physical therapist, right.

2 Q What's his name? John what?

3 A Strychasz. And I'm not sure how to spell his last
4 name.

5 Q You mentioned there's physical therapy scrips as
6 well?

7 A Yeah. Just a couple physical therapy
8 prescriptions, yes.

9 Q What are the dates on those?

10 A One is January 6th, 2004, and the other is
11 February 18th, 2003.

12 Q What progress notes -- physical therapy progress
13 notes, what are the dates of those?

14 A February 20th, 2003 through May 8th -- or I'm
15 sorry, through April 9th, 2004.

16 Q You said through, is that showing a continual
17 course of treatment during that time, or is it just
18 two notes from those two dates?

19 A I've got several notes, but that's the --

20 Q That's the start and end date?

21 A Yeah, that's kind of the start and end date.

22 Q Doctor, are those notes normally maintained as part
23 of your chart?

24 A No, it's a separate chart. The physical therapy
25 chart.

1 Q So if I requested something like that, I would need
2 to request the physical therapy chart as well --

3 A Right.

4 Q -- for Kim Richley? What about the prescription
5 log, is that normally included as part of your
6 chart?

7 A Yes.

8 Q Doctor, have you reviewed any cases for Mr. Ruf or
9 Mr. Patno?

10 A Other than this one?

11 Q Yes.

12 A No, sir.

13 Q Have you ever rendered any opinions for
14 Kimberly Richley regarding her physical condition
15 in any other case or Workers' Compensation claim?

16 A No.

17 MR. RUF: Objection as to
18 Workers' Compensation claim.

19 Q Doctor, were you given anything to review in this
20 case outside of your own chart?

21 A Just some monetary estimates as far as medications.

22 Q Could you identify it for me?

23 MR. RUF: Let me just tell you
24 what it is so the record is clear. It's the report
25 of Ernie Agen (phonetic) with the calculations for

1 future medical costs for prescriptions.

2 Q Anything else, Doctor?

3 A No. That's all.

4 Q Did you perform any research in this case?

5 A No.

6 Q Doctor, what were you asked to do in this case?

7 A Regarding what? I'm not clear on the question.

8 Q When plaintiff's counsel contacted you, what did

9 they ask you to do?

10 A Just appear for a deposition.

11 Q When plaintiff's counsel contacted you and asked

12 you to do a report, what did they ask you to give

13 you a report about?

14 A Regarding her report that I referenced, the

15 April 15th, 2004 report?

16 Q Yes.

17 A What was their specific request to me?

18 Q Yes.

19 A You know, I don't have the specific letter from

20 Mr. Ruf, but I have my report in front of me. I'm

21 not sure what was asked other than could you

22 provide some prognosis as far as the permanency of

23 her condition, and, you know, I can't specifically

24 recall anymore than that.

25 Q And your impression then is fine of what you

1 believe of what you were asked to do. Prognosis
2 and permanency?

3 A Prognosis, permanency, recurrent condition perhaps.

4 Q To make this quicker, Doctor, do you intend to
5 offer any opinions on the chiropractic standard of
6 care?

7 A No.

8 Q Do you intend to offer any opinions regarding
9 whether a breach of the chiropractic standard of
10 care proximately caused Kim Richley harm?

11 A I don't know enough about the chiropractic standard
12 of care to offer those opinions.

13 Q You're not going to offer any opinion -- or any
14 opinion testimony about her neck -- how she
15 sustained the injury to her neck, but you're going
16 to tell us what that injury involves; is that a
17 fair statement?

18 A I'm not sure. I just appeared for the deposition.
19 I'm not sure what's going to be asked of me and
20 what's not going to be asked of me.

21 Q You understand the reason I'm taking your
22 deposition is because plaintiffs have identified
23 you as an expert in this case, and this is my
24 chance to find out what you're going to testify
25 about at trial. So that's the reason I'm asking

1 these questions.

2 So as you sit here today, are you going to
3 offer any opinion testimony regarding what caused
4 Kim Richley's neck injury?

5 A Again, I'm not sure. I mean, I didn't appear with
6 the intent of offering one thing specifically over
7 another.

8 Q So you don't know?

9 A I don't know.

10 Q Doctor, when did you start treating Kim Richley?

11 A Well, the first note I have is from June of 2002,
12 but I had been treating her well before that.

13 Q Do you know when?

14 A Specifically no, I can't tell you when I first
15 started treating her.

16 Q Why did you only bring part of her chart?

17 A I had my assistants make copies of what was
18 available in her chart. I mean, you know, charts
19 are broken down after several years and, you know,
20 filed away, and this is what I was given.

21 Q Let's talk broadly, Doctor, about -- let me first
22 ask you: You authored that April 15, 2004 report
23 you're looking at, is that the only version of that
24 report?

25 A I believe so, yes.

1 Q Were there any drafts?

2 A Not that I'm aware of.

3 Q Does the report fairly and accurately summarize

4 your opinions?

5 A Yes.

6 Q Do you have any changes you want to make to it

7 before we start?

8 A I don't think so.

9 Q As I read that, Doctor, you're going to testify

10 about Kim Richley's current condition; is that

11 right?

12 A Right.

13 Q You'll talk about how you're treating her

14 currently; is that right?

15 A Right.

16 Q You're also going to talk about how you've treated

17 her in the past?

18 A Right.

19 Q It appears to me that you're going to offer

20 opinions regarding whether she can be gainfully

21 employed due to this injury; is that correct?

22 A Correct.

23 Q And you will offer opinions regarding the

24 permanency of her injuries; is that right?

25 A Correct.

1 Q Is there anything else that you can think of?

2 A No.

3 (Defendant's Exhibits 1 & 2
4 marked for identification.)

5 MR. REGNIER: Mark, I have marked a
6 copy of the report you provided me as Defendant's
7 Exhibit 2. Do you have any objection to me
8 attaching that as an exhibit?

9 MR. RUF: I do not.

10 MR. REGNIER: Same thing with the CV,
11 any problems with that?

12 MR. RUF: No.

13 MR. REGNIER: Thanks.

14 Q Doctor, give me a broad overview of Kim Richley's
15 condition. What's she like right now?

16 A Well, she has day to day pain in the neck, it's up
17 and down. She has her good days, she has her bad
18 days. The pain is about as controlled as we can
19 get it with the medication that she's on. And, you
20 know, again, she'll have good days and bad days.

21 She used to have problems with her upper
22 extremities following the injury to her neck, those
23 have resolved. So, you know, she's very happy and
24 pleased about the fact that she's regained her
25 strength for the most part back into her upper

1 extremities.

2 And, you know, I think the best way to sum
3 it up, she has good days and she has days where the
4 pain is a little bit more substantial and produces
5 headaches. And she knows she's not able to do a
6 whole lot. If she pushes herself and tries to do
7 things, she's usually paying for it later or the
8 next day. So she's limited from a physical
9 standpoint.

10 Q Doctor, what's your understanding of her neck
11 injury or her cervical injury? What does she have?

12 A What's my understanding of her injury, meaning --
13 I'm sorry, can you be more clear?

14 Q Yes. What's your understanding of what's wrong
15 with her neck?

16 A Well, she had an injury, sustained a fracture to
17 the neck. It was a fractured subluxation, which is
18 a pretty significant injury. She initially had
19 some neurologic complications as well. That was
20 repaired by Dr. Likavec, who's an excellent
21 neurosurgeon. And, you know, so she has a cervical
22 fusion now. And, you know, she'll continue with
23 some neck discomfort.

24 Q Do you have an understanding of where and what was
25 fractured?

1 A I believe it was C6-7 level she had fractured
2 through a facet joint.

3 Q And what's your understanding of the repair that
4 was done?

5 A Well, I've got an operative report here. I read
6 through it earlier today. I mean, they reduced the
7 fracture. They removed some pieces of bone that
8 were causing compression on a nerve root. And a
9 posterior cervical fusion was performed. I mean,
10 that's about it.

11 I mean, there's lots of other details, I
12 don't know if you want to get into details. I
13 think you have the op report, too.

14 Q That's fine. You mentioned you reviewed the
15 operative report before the deposition today?

16 A Right.

17 Q Were you advised of any other medical records or
18 testimony by plaintiff's counsel before the
19 deposition today?

20 A No.

21 Q Were you advised of anything else at all by
22 plaintiff's counsel before the deposition today?

23 A No, sir.

24 Q Kim Richley then came to you for -- well,
25 Kim Richley was already treating with you prior to

1 her neck injury, correct?

2 A Yes.

3 Q And she had been treating with you for some time;
4 is that right?

5 A Right.

6 Q Would you agree she was seeing you on a pretty
7 regular basis around every month to two months?

8 A She was on Schedule II narcotics, which requires
9 regular visits.

10 Q What was she on?

11 A Fentanyl, which is a transdermal -- the brand name
12 is actually Duragesic. It's transdermal Fentanyl,
13 which is a pain patch.

14 Q What else?

15 A At different times she was on different things.
16 You know, she was on medications for breakthrough
17 pain, anti-inflammatories. I mean, do you want
18 specifics?

19 Q I'd like to know what medications she was already
20 on before the injury under your supervision.

21 A Okay. Well, immediately before the injury she was
22 taking the Duragesic patch I had mentioned, with a
23 dose of 25 micrograms transdermally. Ultram, which
24 is pain medication, or Tramadol, which is the
25 generic form. I mean, she -- you know, I'm just

1 giving a list of what she was on not necessarily
2 all at the same time, but in looking at my med log
3 here.

4 Q I wasn't given a copy of the prescription log, so
5 I'd appreciate that.

6 A So she was also on Hydrocodone or Vicodin. That
7 prescription was provided on July 9th. So I mean
8 she wasn't taking it necessarily concomitantly with
9 the Tramadol, but that was also something she had
10 been on prior to the neck injury.

11 Q What else?

12 A I mean, immediately prior to the neck injury, not
13 much else. I mean, several months prior to that
14 she was on some anti-inflammatories with Vioxx. I
15 mean, I could go back a whole year if you want and
16 give you her meds that she was on.

17 Q No. Doctor -- and with Mr. Ruf's permission --
18 after this is over, I would like you to make a
19 copy, or your office to make a copy of what you
20 have there today so that I can see that as well.

21 Is that okay with you?

22 A Yes.

23 Q Thanks.

24 MR. RUF: I don't have those
25 records either so we're going to need to get two

1 copies.

2 Q Okay. And I'm sorry, Doctor, when do your notes
3 start that you have there?

4 A In my possession the first note I have is from
5 June 4th, 2002.

6 Q Doctor, has Kim Richley -- have you had to
7 prescribe narcotics for Kim Richley for sometime
8 prior to that date?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Have you been treating her prior to that date for
11 chronic pain management?

12 A Right. Yes.

13 Q Can you give me a -- with the understanding that
14 those notes aren't in front of you, can you give me
15 sort of a broad description of what you were
16 treating her for prior to this injury?

17 A I mean, she had, you know, some back pain that was
18 coming into the legs, was not responding to
19 physical therapy, and, you know, lesser
20 medications, anti-inflammatories and muscle
21 relaxers. And so we had done what we could do from
22 a treatment standpoint, and we decided to get a
23 little bit more aggressive with the pain control.

24 Q She was having difficulty with the pain prior to
25 this injury?

1 A Yeah, difficulty with low back pain.

2 Q Was she also having difficulty with right arm and
3 hand pain related to carpal tunnel?

4 A Possibly at a point in time. I mean, you know, her
5 early EMGs did demonstrate that she had some very
6 mild carpal tunnel that did get progressively
7 worse.

8 Q Would that have been your December 10, 2002 EMG, or
9 did you do one earlier than that?

10 A I did one earlier than that. I did one in
11 January of 2002.

12 Q Okay.

13 A She had some mild carpal tunnel at that time.

14 Q There's a -- did your office perform her carpal
15 tunnel surgery or is that someone else?

16 A You know, I can't be sure whether we did or not.

17 Q So after -- do you have an understanding in looking
18 at your chart, did Kim Richley keep a regularly
19 scheduled appointment to see you after her neck
20 surgery, or did she come in special, how did she
21 come back into your office?

22 A Let me -- I'll find my first note following her
23 neck injury. You know -- I mean, she was on pain
24 medication, so it wasn't what you would say a
25 scheduled visit. There was a lapse of a couple

1 months that I didn't see her. And then the first
2 note I have is from October 29th, 2002 after her
3 injury. And, you know, I have -- the first
4 sentence in that note is, "She appeared today" --
5 came in here today for follow up.

6 Q You said you have to see her how often when she's
7 on Schedule II substances?

8 A Generally every one to two months. I mean, it's
9 nothing that's written in stone, but that's my own
10 personal standard of care as I'd like to --
11 especially on Schedule II narcotics to see them at
12 least every two months.

13 Q What was your role in managing Kim Richley's care
14 after her neck injury and surgery?

15 A Just to, you know, monitor her progress as far as
16 neurologically as she had some upper extremity
17 weakness, and try to keep her pain under control,
18 and, you know, those type of things. You know, as
19 a rehab doctor it's hard to put your finger on one
20 specific thing. You know, you take several things
21 into account how they're doing in life in general.
22 Trying to get them back, you know, to work, if
23 possible. Rehabilitation in every manner.

24 Q Do you know were you treating her within the
25 Workers' Compensation system or were you treating

1 her as a private pay patient?

2 MR. RUF: Objection as to
3 Workers' Compensation.

4 Q Go ahead, Doctor.

5 A You know, I'm not sure. I don't have any of the
6 billing stuff in front of me. There was a period
7 of time when she did have an injury -- she did have
8 an injury when she was employed. I believe she was
9 working at a bakery at the time. And, you know, it
10 might be more specifically listed in my note if you
11 want me to look.

12 Q Sure.

13 A You know, we actually have a separate
14 Workers' Compensation chart, so it's possible that
15 I don't have that information.

16 Q You have a separate Workers' Comp chart for Kim?

17 A Well, yeah. You know, generally that's how we do
18 it. I mean, if they have private pay -- if it's
19 the same person that has one case that's
20 Workmen's Comp and another situation that's private
21 pay, then we have two separate charts.

22 Q You feel it's appropriate to open a separate file
23 -- if a person has one injury that's related to a
24 Workers' Comp accident, and the other that's
25 unrelated, you believe it's appropriate to keep two

1 separate charts; is that correct?

2 A Right.

3 Q And to bill accordingly? To bill Workers' Comp for
4 the Workers' Comp injury and to bill the private
5 pay for the unrelated injuries; is that right?

6 A Yeah. That's generally what we do.

7 Q Is that the standard of practice that you're aware
8 of of physicians in Ohio?

9 MR. RUF: Objection.

10 He said he's not testifying as to standards
11 of practice.

12 A I mean, I'm not sure -- I mean, that's what we at
13 Precision Orthopedic Specialties generally try to
14 do, and I'm sure things get mixed up a bit.

15 Q And my question is only: You don't think that's
16 unusual?

17 A Two separate charts?

18 Q Yes.

19 A No.

20 Q You're not her primary care physician, right?

21 A Right. I am not.

22 Q Is there a primary care physician that you
23 correspond with on Kim Richley, or are you aware of
24 who that would be?

25 A No.

1 Q You've mentioned that the different areas that you
2 practice in, would you view your role with Kim to
3 be primarily one of pain management?

4 A Yes, primarily.

5 Q Doctor, could you look at your October 29th, 2002
6 note you were just talking about?

7 A Okay.

8 Q I'm not going to ask you to read it, but there's
9 one word I can't read and that's in the middle. It
10 says saw a blank facet. And it looks like there's
11 a word written in there, could you tell me what
12 that word is?

13 A Perched, p-e-r-c-h-e-d.

14 Q And you mentioned in the last two sentences, you
15 say, "Her back pain continues as previous and she
16 has yet to return to work from the back pain."

17 What was going on with her back?

18 A Well, I mean, I had been treating for her back for
19 some time. She had back pain and radicular pain
20 into the leg. And I mean, that's why we had
21 engaged in pain medications.

22 Q And that injury had prevented her from working
23 prior to the neck injury?

24 A Right. I mean, apparently for some time, yes.

25 Q What does the transdermal patch do? How does it

1 work?

2 A Well, it blocks specific receptors in the brain
3 that receive pain signals.

4 Q How long does one -- I'm sorry, I'm not familiar
5 with patches, how long does one patch last?

6 A Generally they're changed every 72 hours. Some
7 patients do require a change of the patch every
8 48 hours.

9 Q Does it act as a -- you say it blocks the pain
10 receptors?

11 A Right. I mean, it binds the pain receptors in the
12 brain, and then those pain receptors cannot accept
13 any other chemical that would trigger a pain
14 response. So it's basically a centrally acting
15 pain controlled mechanism.

16 Q That was my next question. It acts generally to
17 pain reception in the body or to a specific body
18 area?

19 A No, just generally. I mean, so it's really acting
20 at the brain level.

21 Q So it helps blocks pain wherever the patient is
22 experiencing it?

23 A Right.

24 Q And in the past Kim had mentioned to you that it
25 was helping block pain in several areas, had she

1 not?

2 A Right.

3 Q She had mentioned that it was helping block her low
4 back pain; is that right?

5 A Right.

6 Q And it was helping to block her jaw pain, her TMJ
7 that she had; do you recall that?

8 A Right.

9 Q Did she mention it helping any other areas that you
10 recall?

11 A Not that I can specifically recall. I mean, she
12 had some pain into the pelvic area as well
13 posteriorly, the sacral iliac area. I cannot
14 recall any other specific areas.

15 Q Doctor, after your -- well, after you saw her on
16 October 29th, what did you do for her?

17 A We continued with her medications, and -- I mean,
18 my last sentence on that note is we extended her
19 time off from work.

20 Q Forgive me, because as I said, I don't have your
21 prescription log. Did you change any of her
22 medications on October 29th, 2002?

23 A No. It does not look like the medications were
24 changed until a month later.

25 Q What visit would that be, Doctor, or the date that

1 you're looking at?

2 A Probably November 25th.

3 Q Doctor, do you have a treatment note for
4 November 25th? And I say that only because I
5 don't.

6 A I have one for November 21st, so that was probably
7 the date that we made the decision to increase her
8 pain medication.

9 Q Then the prescription would have been filled some
10 days later?

11 A Right.

12 Q Okay. What did you do on the 21st, Doctor?

13 A November 21st?

14 Q Yes.

15 A I gave her some Percocet which is a short acting
16 pain reliever. We continued with the Fentanyl or
17 the Duragesic patch. I gave her a muscle relaxer.
18 And I decided to set her up for an EMG nerve
19 conduction study.

20 Q Do you see on your paragraph in that note that says
21 plan, Doctor?

22 A Yes.

23 Q A couple of questions: Are you -- were you the one
24 prescribing her the Neurontin or was that somebody
25 else?

1 A That was somebody else.

2 Q That was for her epilepsy, right?

3 A Right.

4 Q Does that have some side pain management benefits?

5 A Yes.

6 Q What are those?

7 A It controls nerve pain.

8 Q You mentioned that you set her up or you wanted to
9 get an EMG study done; is that right?

10 A Correct.

11 Q You said, "Will call her once that is approved."

12 Was that being sent into Workers' Comp or her
13 private pay insurances, do you know?

14 A Private pay insurance.

15 Q What were your findings on that day, Doctor?

16 A She had some nerve damage to the C6 and C --
17 cervical level six and cervical level seven nerve
18 roots on the right side.

19 Q How do you determine that?

20 A Well, I mean, the part of the test you stimulate
21 the nerves with probe that delivers current. And
22 you measure how quickly the current travels, you
23 measure the amplitude of the wave response, and
24 then you calculate conduction velocities.

25 The second part of the test involves

1 placing a monopolar needle into the muscle. And,
2 you know, depending on where the muscles are
3 injured or nerves are injured, you'll have
4 different findings. And her specific findings were
5 that she had findings consistent with nerve damage
6 that was acute.

7 Q I'm sorry, that sounds like you're describing the
8 EMG test?

9 A Yeah. Well, I mean, the first part of my statement
10 was the nerve conduction study. When I talked
11 about the monopolar needle, that was the needle
12 examination or the EMG.

13 Q My question was: What did you do on the 21st to
14 find that she had nerve damage, or were you just
15 referring to what you found later?

16 A I'm sorry. I thought you wanted me to elaborate on
17 the EMG.

18 Q No. I'm sorry. I thought you had said that you
19 diagnosed that she had nerve damage on
20 November 21st?

21 A Well, I suspected it. She had some weakness, she
22 had a blunted reflex. You know, had muscle
23 weakness in different parts of the arm.

24 Q That's what I wanted to know. So the EMG that you
25 were just describing to me, that happened on

1 December 10, had a nerve conduction study

2 December 10, 2002?

3 A Right.

4 Q Is it accurate your general findings were that
5 there was a lesion on the cervical spine involving
6 nerve root C-6 and 7; is that right?

7 A Yeah. I mean, lesion just implies injury.

8 Q Did you also find carpal tunnel injuries that day?

9 A Yes.

10 Q Would it be accurate to say that the diminished
11 sensation that she had on the ulnar half of her
12 forearm and the fourth and fifth digits of her hand
13 were related to the carpal tunnel and not to her
14 cervical injury?

15 A No. I mean, carpal tunnel generally affects the
16 first two or three digit of the hand. It very
17 rarely effects the fourth and fifth digits of the
18 hand.

19 Q Is it your belief that the ulnar nerve injury you
20 were talking about, that that was related to the
21 cervical injury?

22 A I believe that the paraesthesia and the numbness
23 she had in the fourth and fifth digits were related
24 to her cervical injury.

25 Q What were your recommendations to Kim Richley in

1 December of 2002 treatment-wise?

2 A You know, there's not much you can do once you have
3 nerve damage if the compression has been removed or
4 decompressed. So, you know, it was a wait and see
5 thing at that time. We were going to monitor any
6 nerve or neurologic recovery she would have at that
7 time. And, you know, it's just a matter of seeing
8 her for months and months to continue to manage her
9 pain.

10 Q You continued to manage her for other conditions as
11 well; is that correct?

12 A Yeah. But, you know, the neck kind of took the
13 focus from that point forward.

14 Q Does she continue to have back pain from this point
15 forward?

16 A I mean, not that she really complained about much
17 anymore.

18 Q Did she complain of foot and leg pain?

19 A Possibly.

20 Q Would it be fair to say your records speak for
21 themselves, and whatever you wrote, you wrote.
22 That would be the most accurate reflection of what
23 you were treating on a given day?

24 A Yes.

25 Q Has Kim Richley been treated with narcotics

1 continually since October of 2002 for her
2 condition?

3 A Yes.

4 Q Is that raising any dangers in treating her that
5 way?

6 A Dangers in what sense?

7 Q Of treating with narcotics for a period of years?

8 A Well, you know, before you make the decision to
9 proceed with narcotic treatment, you know, you try
10 to do anything and everything else you can, whether
11 there's any surgical correction available, or
12 whether therapy will do what you want, or, you
13 know, lesser medications, such as anti-
14 inflammatories or muscle relaxers. You know, help
15 the patient cope with their pain before engaging in
16 narcotic treatment.

17 Once you start using medications like
18 Fentanyl that are generally longer acting
19 narcotics, you're generally resigned to the fact
20 that they may very realistically be on these
21 medications forever.

22 Q Does the patient build up a tolerance to the
23 narcotics when they're treated long term?

24 A Generally quicker to the short acting narcotics and
25 that's why we try to use the longer acting

1 narcotics like the transdermal Fentanyl.

2 Q Would she develop a tolerance to the Percocet and
3 things like that though?

4 A Yeah, anybody would.

5 Q Did you -- when was the first time you recommended
6 physical therapy for Kim Richley?

7 A I don't recall.

8 Q Do you have it in your notes?

9 A Chances are that before I -- before she came to see
10 me she was referred to me by somebody else and has
11 been -- had been through any lesser treatments.
12 But, you know, again, my first note is from
13 June 4th, 2002, I don't have any prior notes on her
14 available to me today.

15 Q I apologize. I mean, when was the first time you
16 referred her to physical therapy after her neck
17 injury?

18 A You know, I'm going to check here, but I mean she
19 was still under the care of Dr. Likavec for the
20 first few months following her neck injury. And it
21 looks like the first time I recommended physical
22 therapy was February of 2003.

23 Q And did she go to physical therapy then?

24 A I'm not sure. I mean, it doesn't look like we have
25 the records of those visits with her. I mean, I'm

1 not sure if she did or not.

2 Q Did you say you maintained a separate physical
3 therapy chart as well?

4 A Yes.

5 Q I'm sorry did you say yes?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And that physical therapy would have been done in
8 your office?

9 A I mean, it most likely would have been done in our
10 office, yes. I mean, it does not appear that she
11 actually scheduled any physical therapy, you know,
12 in February or March of 2002.

13 Q Would you expect the patient to schedule physical
14 therapy after you requested over ordered that they
15 do so?

16 A You know, not necessarily. I mean, you know,
17 mostly people with chronic pain have been through
18 physical therapy before. It's one of those things
19 that you can recommend just because there's not
20 many other things to recommend. You know, a
21 patient has pain and they're having a bad day and
22 they're looking at you for answers. And sometimes
23 that's something you do recommend as an option.

24 I mean, it's not comparable to someone,
25 let's say, who had a sports injury and that

1 physical therapy is imperative for them to improve
2 their performance and get back to their baseline.

3 Q Well, Doctor, it's not fair to characterize her
4 neck injury as chronic in January of 2003, is it,
5 it's only -- she's just had the repair surgery?

6 A You know, I wasn't speaking specifically of her
7 neck injury. I was giving you a generality
8 regarding someone who has chronic pain.

9 Q All right. Well, it's fair to say that in the fall
10 of 2002 and the winter of 2003 her neck injury was
11 not a chronic injury, isn't it?

12 A Right.

13 Q In fact, the recovery process from an injury like
14 this can last for, what, up to a year or 18 months;
15 is that right?

16 A Right.

17 Q So during that time period, it wouldn't be fair to
18 characterize it as a chronic injury, correct?

19 A Right.

20 Q And when I review your records, is it fair for me
21 to assume that when you mention chronic pain,
22 you're not talking about her neck injury; is that
23 right?

24 A Right.

25 Q So my question is: Would you normally expect

1 someone to comply with your request or order to
2 undergo physical therapy me for an acute injury?

3 A Again, I wasn't -- I did not treat her acute
4 injury, so that wouldn't be my place to make that
5 recommendation.

6 Q Is it your position you had no role in her recovery
7 from her neck injury?

8 A I had a minimal role. I mean, I was controlling
9 her pain. Dr. Likavec managed her cervical
10 injuries.

11 Q Okay. So in your opinion, Dr. Likavec is the
12 primary treater of her neck injuries; is that
13 right?

14 A Right.

15 Q And your role is to help her with pain management
16 down the road after she is --

17 A Well, you know, during her recovery and thereafter,
18 yeah.

19 Q Do you know of anyone else who is treating her neck
20 injury besides you after January of 2002 -- excuse
21 me, 2003?

22 A No.

23 Q Did you recommend at any other times physical
24 therapy for Kim Richley --

25 A Yes.

1 Q -- for her neck?

2 A For her neck? You know, I can't be sure.

3 Q What's your understanding of what you were
4 recommending physical therapy for then when you
5 would recommend it for Kim?

6 A Mostly modalities to reduce pain.

7 Q Pain where?

8 A In her neck.

9 Q Isn't that what I asked? When did you refer her
10 for PT for her neck? That's what I'm asking you.
11 When did you refer her for physical therapy for
12 relief or improvement for her neck?

13 A It looks like February 2003, one time.

14 Q When else?

15 A You want me to check all the notes and tell you
16 specifically?

17 Q Please.

18 A Can we just say that anywhere in my notes that I
19 recommended physical therapy is when I recommended
20 physical therapy?

21 Q Yes. I didn't know if you have a separate --
22 Doctor, with what you have in front of you, because
23 we don't have the same things. I don't know if you
24 have a separate sheet that shows when referrals
25 were made or histories that were made when you

1 referred her?

2 A I mean, I have a log of her physical therapy, you
3 know, assessments and subsequent visits.

4 Q That's a separate sheet?

5 A Right.

6 Q How long is it?

7 A There's several sheets here. I mean, several times
8 she did not appear for physical therapy, other
9 times she had cancellations, other times she did
10 appear.

11 Q Do any of them show, Doctor, a regular course of,
12 you know, two to three times a week for a certain
13 amount of time?

14 A No. I mean, she never, under my care, had
15 consistent physical therapy.

16 Q Was that because you never recommended it or
17 because she never went to it?

18 A You know, partly it's because she cancelled and no
19 shows for appointments. I mean, there's
20 documentation here from a physical therapist that
21 her mother was ill and she had a hard time making
22 physical therapy appointments.

23 Q I mean, that's all I'm asking. Did you ever
24 recommend a regular course that wasn't followed, or
25 did you never recommend a regular course?

1 A Again, the physical therapy was specifically to
2 improve her pain. It wasn't to improve her upper
3 extremity function in any way. It was to try to
4 maintain range of motion in the cervical spine and
5 to reduce her pain.

6 Q So what does that mean? What kind of things do you
7 do for her then? What do you recommend?

8 A You know, ultrasound, a therapist can apply
9 electric stimulation, they can do some manual
10 therapy, you know, those type of things.

11 Q So it wasn't exercise or stretching or
12 rehabilitative exercises?

13 A Right.

14 Q Was that sort of therapy ever recommended for
15 Kim Richley?

16 A At one point, you know, just to maintain her range
17 of motion, but never any strengthening per se, no.

18 Q When was the range of motion set -- ordered?

19 A I believe it was February 2003, but let me double
20 check here. My note on February 18th, 2003.

21 Q Doctor, let's talk about your neurological findings
22 with Kim Richley currently.

23 Did I understand you correctly that you
24 believe her neurological function has returned in
25 her right extremity?

1 A Yes.

2 Q Is it now functionally normal?

3 A Yes.

4 Q When did that happen, Doctor, if you know? When
5 did it return to normal?

6 A Per my notes, she had a gradual return to
7 functional capacity. You know, per my note on
8 July of '04, she had pretty decent return by that
9 time. Per my note to Mr. Ruf in April 2004, I
10 believe I state in there that her strength is back
11 to a functional level.

12 Q Does it say that? I'm sorry. What I have is,
13 "Some weakness in the right upper extremity. EMG
14 was repeated on March 2, 2004 and has ongoing
15 evidence of chronic nerve damage but some recovery
16 of the nerves noted."

17 So would it be since that time she has
18 regained her neurological function in her right
19 arm?

20 A You know, as of April 15th she did have some
21 residual weakness. And as of my note in
22 July of 2004, she had regained most of that
23 deficit.

24 Q Have you ever reviewed Dr. Likavec's treatment
25 notes?

1 A Just recently I did.

2 Q Did you look at his last treatment note then on
3 January, I believe, it's 29 of 2003?

4 A I do not believe I did.

5 Q So she has -- currently she has normal nerve
6 function in her right arm. What other findings
7 does she have in her neck and right extremity, if
8 any?

9 A Well, she has substantial pain which does limit the
10 ability, you know, to engage in physical activity.
11 I mean, you know, from a strict perspective of her
12 nerves anatomically, they have healed. But, you
13 know, she doesn't have the endurance and the
14 ability to perform very much arduous work. I mean,
15 per the functional capacity evaluation, you know,
16 she had a very minimal ability to lift, you know,
17 to sit for long periods of time, et cetera.

18 Q Let's start with the pain. Where is she telling
19 you it hurts?

20 A In the neck.

21 Q The pain, is it primarily at the operative site?

22 A No, just generalized pain in the neck. I mean,
23 left and right. Some days right is worse,
24 sometimes left is worse. Extending into the
25 muscles around the shoulder blades and into the

1 trapezius muscles in either side of the neck.

2 Q Is it primarily -- in your opinion, what kind of
3 pain is it? Is it muscular pain? Is it pain from
4 the fracture? What is it?

5 A You know, it's difficult to say exactly where it's
6 from. I mean, there's several possibilities. It
7 could be from the facet joints themselves. It
8 could be from the discs themselves. It could be
9 partly from the hardware that was placed. So, I
10 mean, it's impossible to say, but as a result of
11 what's going on in and near the spine, there's
12 muscle pain and muscle spasm as well.

13 Q Pain anywhere else, Doctor, that she's complaining
14 to you of?

15 A I mean, she has the ongoing back pain but that's of
16 lesser concern. I mean, that was controlled pretty
17 well with the lesser dose of the transdermal patch
18 that we were treating her with. And since then
19 she's on a little bit stronger of a dose. So the
20 back pain has been well controlled.

21 Q And I'm sorry, I also don't have functional
22 capacity evaluation. Is her strength back to
23 normal in her right arm?

24 A You know, the functional capacity eval really looks
25 at the function, it doesn't specifically look at

1 isolated muscle strength. It looks at the ability
2 to lift and lift overhead, et cetera. So, no,
3 she's far from normal as far as what she could do
4 functionally.

5 Q Strength-wise, has her strength returned in that
6 arm, the right arm?

7 A Yes, it has. Isolated muscle testing, she has
8 returned pretty much to normal.

9 Q So what is causing the limitations then?

10 A Pain.

11 Q Anything else?

12 A You know, there might be an endurance factor there,
13 but I really believe it's mostly pain.

14 Q Doctor, could that be -- could the pain or the lack
15 of endurance be helped with physical therapy
16 currently?

17 A I don't believe so.

18 Q Why is that?

19 A I don't think she can tolerate physical therapy
20 because the pain gets exacerbated. I mean, the
21 physical therapy, I believe, she can tolerate is
22 going to be very simply modalities, electric stim
23 and those type of things. I don't think she's
24 going to be able to sit there and repetitively lift
25 weights, et cetera.

1 Q In your practice is it typical for a patient to
2 experience this level of pain after a facet injury?

3 A Yeah. I mean, it's not out of the ordinary. I
4 mean, you know, more than facet fractures
5 themselves, I deal more with facet arthritis which
6 can be very painful. I mean, the facet joint
7 itself is full of pain fibers. So, you know, the
8 facet capsule and the facet joint can be a strong
9 pain, you know, elicitor.

10 Q Doctor, you mentioned in -- let's see it's the
11 second to last paragraph of your report, that the
12 pain -- you describe what the pain is doing for
13 her. You say it limits her ability to lift, sit
14 for long periods of time.

15 Do you see that paragraph?

16 A Yes.

17 Q And you mention several other things. Was that
18 history derived from her?

19 A Primarily, but, I mean, she's also had a functional
20 capacity eval that was done after this report that
21 does verify that. But, yeah, that specific history
22 was derived from her.

23 Q And in your opinion the functional capacity test
24 that's been done since then corroborates that?

25 A Yes.

1 Q Doctor, in the first sentence of the last paragraph
2 of your report you state that you do not feel she
3 is able to sustain any gainful employment at this
4 time because of her cervical condition.

5 Is that still your opinion?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Why do you believe she can't be employed doing
8 anything?

9 A Well, I mean -- you know, especially since the
10 functional capacity evaluation has been done, if I
11 wasn't convinced before, I'm certainly convinced
12 after looking at the functional capacity eval. You
13 know, when the functional capacity eval was done,
14 that was done specifically looking at whether or
15 not she could return working in a bakery, and she
16 wasn't even close to that. I mean, her lifting
17 ability is two and a half pounds. She can't sit
18 for long periods of time. So, I mean, that's all
19 pretty clearly documented in the functional
20 capacity eval.

21 Q Who did the functional capacity evaluation?

22 A You know what, I've actually found his last name.
23 That was John Strychasz. And I can spell his last
24 name for you.

25 Q That would be great.

1 A It's S-t-r-y-c-h-a-s-z.

2 Q Thank you. And he's --

3 A From a work evaluation system called
4 The Matheson System of Work Evaluation.

5 Q And he's a physical therapist?

6 A Yes. And it's a comprehensive, you know,
7 functional capacity eval.

8 Q So that -- your opinion in that test is that she
9 certainly could not return to work as a baker,
10 correct?

11 A Working in a bakery, right.

12 Q What about other jobs though?

13 A Well, I mean, she's less than even a sedentary
14 level of physical ability. So, you know, I mean --

15 Q What do you mean by that? What's less than
16 sedentary level of ability?

17 A Sedentary implies pretty much the lowest level in
18 the job demands in the industrial medicine arena.
19 And she's less than sedentary. Sedentary implies
20 five pounds lifting and she can't even do that on a
21 repetitive and continuous basis.

22 I mean, again, that's based on a functional
23 capacity eval. That's the reason we do these
24 functional capacity evals, is because that's as
25 close as we can get to an objective measure of

1 their function.

2 Q Right. At the time of your letter and your report
3 that hadn't been done yet?

4 A Correct.

5 Q So what was it based on at the time?

6 A Well, at the time it was based on the fact that I
7 had been treating her for, you know, a couple of
8 years at that point. And, you know, I know how she
9 was from month to month and -- you know, and I just
10 --

11 I mean, as a physician, you're not going to
12 second guess everything your patient tells you, so
13 you have a tendency to believe what they're telling
14 you. And if she's telling me that she's having a
15 hard time because she did the laundry one day and
16 she's hurting for the next couple of days, then you
17 tend to believe they're struggling to make it from
18 day to day because of their pain.

19 Q Is it your opinion that her current status, this
20 being -- how did you say it -- less than sedentary?

21 A Right.

22 Q That that is entirely caused by her cervical
23 injury?

24 A I mean, can I give you a percentage?

25 Q Sure. You can say it anyway you want.

- 1 A You know, it's impossible to say, really. I mean,
2 I know that would make it easier for everybody if
3 we had a way to measure all that out, but it's very
4 difficult to say. I mean, she -- you know, she has
5 back problems that are well documented. I mean,
6 she -- you know -- but I would say that the
7 cervical injury set her back a fair amount. And I
8 would, you know, I would certainly contribute most
9 of her current condition to the neck injury.
- 10 Q You would contribute most of it to her neck injury?
- 11 A Right.
- 12 Q You would agree with me that her back injury
13 certainly affects her employability, correct?
- 14 A Yeah. To a much lesser degree, but, you know, I
15 think her inability to perform well with the
16 functional capacity evaluation was primarily due to
17 her neck complaints.
- 18 Q Doctor, speaking of other conditions, shortly --
19 let me get the exact date for you unless you know
20 it offhand. After her neck injury, at one point
21 Ms. Richley had surgery on her elbow for cubital
22 tunnel syndrome; do you recall that?
- 23 A I don't specifically recall it, no.
- 24 Q Let me find the note. It would have been
25 March 23rd of 2003. It looks like your office note

1 would be for March 5, 2003.

2 A I have one for March 4 of 2003.

3 Q Does your chart have on the very next page then
4 3/5/03, and it looks like by Jeffrey F. Shall?

5 A Yeah. That's one of my partners. I don't have
6 that.

7 Q That's not in your chart that you have in front of
8 you?

9 A No.

10 Q Are you aware of a diagnosis of cubital tunnel
11 syndrome with her and a surgery to correct it in
12 her right elbow?

13 A You know, I mean, that was a year and a half ago.
14 I don't specifically remember it, but --

15 Q Let me ask you this and here's the reason I'm
16 asking, that surgery is an expense being claimed in
17 this case. Would you agree with me that that
18 surgery would not be related to her cervical
19 injury?

20 A Right. I don't see any correlation with those two.

21 Q Doctor, you've also offered an opinion that -- the
22 way you said it, "The majority of her cervical
23 issues are permanent;" is that correct?

24 A Yes.

25 Q What of her cervical issues are permanent?

1 A Her pain primarily. You know, her pain in the
2 cervical region. The muscle spasm that she gets.
3 The pain that travels into the shoulder blades and
4 out to the shoulders along the trapezius muscles.

5 Q And in your opinion that is all related to the
6 cervical injury?

7 A The cervical injury and then, you know, the
8 operation to correct and stabilize the neck.

9 Q Is there anything else -- is there any other
10 permanent injury that you believe she has sustained
11 cervically?

12 A No.

13 Q What's your understanding of Kim Richley's current
14 activities as far as what she can do and can't do?

15 A You know that's based mostly off the functional
16 capacity eval. Do you want me to give you a
17 summary of that?

18 Q You weren't there, though, for the functional
19 capacity evaluation. What has she been telling you
20 when she comes in for treatment about what she can
21 and can't do?

22 A Again, she's going to have good days and bad days.
23 You know, I can't recall any specifics for you.

24 Q Does it seem to be activity related when you say
25 good days and bad days?

1 A Sometimes it is, not necessarily all the time
2 though.

3 Q Some days she can just wake up with it?

4 A Right.

5 Q Doctor, while you were treating -- while you've
6 been treating Kim Richley, did -- she's had several
7 bad falls, has she not?

8 MR. RUF: Objection.

9 A You know, I'm not sure. She might have had, I'm
10 not sure.

11 Q Well, you know she had one at work in
12 August of 2002, right?

13 A Right.

14 Q And do you have your history intake forms in front
15 of you?

16 A For that specific fall?

17 Q No, in general. I've got several history forms of
18 yours.

19 A Yeah. I mean, I don't have all of them. You know,
20 that specific fall would be under the Workers' Comp
21 chart.

22 Q Do you have your note for May 6th, 2003?

23 A Yes.

24 Q Do you have the treatment history that goes with
25 it, the history intake?

1 A Yes.

2 Q What treatment did you render to her -- she slipped
3 and fell on that date, correct, or shortly before?

4 A Right.

5 Q And she was concerned about a concussion; is that
6 right?

7 A Right.

8 Q On your history forms, Doctor, whose handwriting is
9 that? Is that yours, a nurse's, or Ms. Richley's?

10 A That's a medical assistant.

11 Q Do you know why in several spots in your chart
12 Kim Richley had an aversion to getting X-rays, do
13 you know why that was?

14 A No. You know, it could be because in that Brooklyn
15 office we have to send them downstairs for X-rays
16 and it can take a long time.

17 Q Where was she treated primarily, do you know, which
18 office?

19 A Yeah, the Brooklyn office.

20 Q So when there's a note in your chart that's stamped
21 Ridgemark Office, is that another one of your
22 locations?

23 A No. That's the same one, Ridgemark, Brooklyn.

24 Q You know, Doctor, you also have a note on
25 September 15, 2003 in your chart that says,

1 "Kim Richley was hospitalized."

2 Do you know what that was for?

3 A I remember she had pneumonia at one point, but I'm
4 not positive if it was at that time or not.

5 Q Doctor, do you think her back has improved enough
6 to go to work?

7 MR. RUF: Her low back?

8 MR. REGNIER: Yes.

9 A Yeah, I think so. I think she could be employed
10 because, you know, the back was not as much of a
11 concern. I mean, she was working with the back
12 pain.

13 Q Why, Doctor, did you recommend counseling for
14 Kim Richley?

15 A I mean, that's something we recommend to a lot of
16 patients that are having chronic pain. You know, I
17 was feeling that she emotionally was having a hard
18 time coping with the pain, and that may be
19 something that might have been helpful in helping
20 cope with the pain.

21 Q A couple of times -- well, at least once in your
22 chart you said that family stress was exacerbating
23 her neck pain, didn't you?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q What was going on there?

1 A Specifically I don't recall, but, I mean, there's
2 lots of things that can exacerbate pain. You know,
3 stress is certainly one of those.

4 Q Doctor, on January 29th, 2004, when you recommended
5 counseling, it wasn't for -- it was for family
6 dynamics causing stress, so my question is: What
7 was that about?

8 A You're asking me what the specific family dynamics
9 were?

10 Q Why were you recommending counseling? What was
11 going on?

12 A Again, I can't specifically recall. I mean, from
13 what I can specifically remember, her daughter was
14 pregnant and, you know -- I mean, I can't
15 specifically recall. Daughter's unmarried and she
16 was really worrying about her daughter being
17 pregnant and, you know, those type of things.

18 Q You mentioned, Doctor, that you've had a chance to
19 review Bernard Agen's report, which lists three
20 medications on it; Bextra, Percocet, and the
21 transdermal patch?

22 A Right.

23 Q Is it your testimony that Kimberly Richley will
24 require those medications for the rest of the her
25 life?

1 A Most likely she will. I mean, that's a regimen
2 she's on to have her pain reasonably controlled.
3 You know, it's possibly -- it's possible she will,
4 it's also possible that she won't. I mean, as far
5 as today, you're asking me, my answer today would
6 be that she most likely will require these
7 medications for the rest of her life.

8 Q I'm just about done, Doctor. If you'll hang on
9 just a second.

10 MR. RUF: I have a few questions
11 for him when you're done.

12 Q Doctor, have we covered all the areas of opinion
13 that you currently hold in this case?

14 A I believe we've covered most of them, yes.

15 Q Can you think of anything else?

16 A No.

17 Q Doctor, what are your fees that you charge for
18 deposition and trial testimony?

19 A I could find out for you. I'm not sure. Our
20 office here does most of that stuff.

21 Q How many depositions have you given in the last
22 year?

23 A In the last year, it's possibly my second, if not
24 my first. I'm not completely sure again.

25 Q How long have been testifying in cases?

1 A Three to four years. Again, that's an estimate.

2 MR. REGNIER: Doctor, Mr. Ruf is
3 going to ask you some questions in a minute, but I
4 would like to have copies of everything you have
5 there. And the release that we had sent, I
6 believe, earlier to your office --

7 And Mark we can talk about it if you want a
8 separate release -- asks for your entire chart.

9 I would like the entire chart that your
10 office has for Kimberly Richley.

11 THE WITNESS: Can you repeat that?

12 MR. RUF: You just broke up.

13 MR. REGNIER: I believe your release
14 earlier was for all the records you had of Kimberly
15 Richley, but I would like -- whether you provide it
16 to us or if we need a separate release for Kim
17 Richley, all of her files of the treatment you have
18 rendered to her.

19 THE WITNESS: Okay.

20 MR. REGNIER: Do you have any
21 objection to that, Mark?

22 MR. RUF: No. I asked for them
23 originally. I mean, this is what they gave me. It
24 sounds like you have more than I've got.

25 MR. REGNIER: I think I might.

1 MR. RUF: All I've got are his
2 notes, and that's it.

3 MR. REGNIER: Okay.

4 Q Doctor, real quickly, your EMG study, you did one
5 this past spring?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And I understand that since her -- since
8 currently -- whatever you found then, if it showed
9 a nerve deficit, that deficit is now gone,
10 correct?

11 MR. RUF: Objection.

12 Q I just want to know whether we have it take you
13 through all that or not?

14 A I mean, if you're specifically asking about the
15 EMG, the needle part of the EMG is always going to
16 detect some chronic problems.

17 Q Okay. What does it show?

18 A You know, it showed chronic denervation, which
19 means that there's been some damage to the nerves
20 and there's been some resprouting of axons so you
21 see some different potentials on the needle
22 examination that generally mean that there's been
23 damage and some recovery, some resprouting.

24 You know, I'm not sure if you're asking me
25 from a functional standpoint, do feel that she's --

1 any neurologic deficit that she has fully recovered
2 or --

3 Q My question is whether the deficits shown in the --
4 whether she's recovered from the deficits shown in
5 that EMG study?

6 A Well, see, the deficits shown in that EMG, again,
7 it showed chronic nerve damage. I mean, that may
8 show up for years and years and years on an EMG
9 nerve conduction study. It may be indefinite. It
10 permanently shows, because that's -- anatomically
11 her nerves had to regrow and resprout and so their
12 pattern is never going to be completely normal,
13 there's always going to be evidence of nerve injury
14 there.

15 MR. REGNIER: I see.

16 With that, Mark, due to the logistical
17 difficulties today, but primarily because I would
18 like his entire chart, I'm done, but I would like
19 reserve the right maybe shortly before a trial
20 deposition to reconvene if there's something new
21 and different in his chart that we don't have.

22 MR. RUF: That's fine. I don't
23 have an objection to that as long as you pay for
24 his time.

25 MR. REGNIER: Sure.

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 By Mr. Ruf:

3 Q Doctor, this is Mark Ruf, I just have a few
4 questions for you.5 Do you have an opinion, based upon a
6 reasonable medical certainty, as to whether
7 Kimberly Richley's neck condition is permanent?

8 A I do believe it's permanent.

9 Q Do you have an opinion, based upon reasonable
10 medical certainty, as to whether she will
11 permanently have to remain on the medication she's
12 on?13 A I believe she'll most likely need to remain on the
14 medication she's on.15 Q Do you have an opinion, based upon reasonable
16 medical certainty, as to whether she will be able
17 to sustain gainful employment?18 A I don't believe she's be able to sustain gainful
19 employment.20 Q Is one of the limitations that she has the ability
21 to look up and down repetitively?

22 MR. REGNIER: Objection, leading.

23 A Yes. Up and down, left and right. You know, any
24 cervical movement on a repetitive basis is going to
25 most likely aggravate her pain, and for that reason

1 she's going to be very hesitant to perform those
2 activities.

3 Q Is the letter of April 25, 2004 that you wrote to
4 me part of your chart?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And was that letter prepared in the regular course
7 of your medical practice?

8 A Yes.

9 MR. RUF: Thank you, Doctor,
10 that's all I have.

11 Anything additional, Mike?

12 MR. REGNIER: No.

13 MR. RUF: Do you want to read
14 this deposition or do you want to assume it's been
15 taken down correctly and waive right?

16 THE WITNESS: I'll waive that right.

17 (Signature waived.)

18 (Deposition concluded at 5:10 p.m.)

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1 State of Ohio,)
2 County of Cuyahoga,) SS: CERTIFICATE

3 I, Jacqueline L. Reichert, a Court Reporter and
4 Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, duly
5 commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that the
6 within named witness, Amardeep S. Chauhan, D.O., was by me
7 first duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole truth,
8 and nothing but the truth in the cause aforesaid; that the
9 testimony then given by him was by me reduced to
10 stenotypy/computer in the presence of said witness,
11 afterward transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true
12 and correct transcript of the testimony so given by him
13 as aforesaid.

14 I do further certify that this deposition was
15 taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption
16 specified, and was completed without adjournment.

17 I do further certify that I am not a relative,
18 counsel, or attorney of either party, or otherwise
19 interested in the event of this action.

20 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
21 and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland, Ohio, on
22 this 21st day of September, 2004.

23 

24 Jacqueline L. Reichert, Court Reporter
25 and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio.
My Commission expires December 6, 2004.