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	Page
1	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
2	OF CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO
3	
4	NADIRAH D. MALIK, etc.,
5	Plaintiff,
б	vs Case No. 443949
	Judge Russo
7	MERIDIA HEALTH SYSTEMS,
	et al.,
8	
	Defendants.
9	
10	
11	DEPOSITION OF REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D.
12	WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2002
13	
14	Deposition of REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D.,
15	a Defendant herein, called by counsel on behalf
16	of the Plaintiff for examination under the
17	statute, taken before me, Vivian L. Gordon, a
18	Registered Diplomate Reporter and Notary Public
19	in and for the State of Ohio, pursuant to
20	agreement of counsel, at the offices of Ulmer $\&$
21	Berne, 900 Penton Media Building, Cleveland,
22	Ohio, commencing at 5:30 p.m. on the day and
23	date above set forth.
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    APPEARANCES:
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     On behalf of the Plaintiff
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Page 3 1 REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D., a witness 2 herein, called for examination, as provided by 3 the Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure, being by me 4 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified, was 5 deposed and said as follows: 6 EXAMINATION OF REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D. 7 BY MR. MISHKIND: 8 0. Would you please state your name for the record. 9 10 Reginald P. Dickerson, M.D. Α. 11 Ο. You are a cardiologist; is that true? 12 Α. Correct. 13 Ο. Dr. Dickerson, my name is Howard 14 Mishkind. I'm going to be asking you some 15 questions about your background and then I will talk to you about Mr. Edwards with regard to 16 17 your treatment of him. 18 Α. Okay. 19 MR. MISHKIND: Do you have a CV for 20 the doctor? 21 MR. LENSON: He has it. He didn't 22 bring it. We will get it to you. Q. Where is your office located, doctor? 23 24 Α. 5 Severance Circle, number 205, 25 Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

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Page 4 Q. How long have you been there? 1 Approximately 18 years, with a hiatus 2 Α. 3 of one or two years that I was at another 4 address. Q. What hospitals do you get privileges 5 6 at? 7 Currently, Huron Hospital, South Α. 8 Pointe Hospital, Hillcrest Hospital. 9 Q. Have you ever had your privileges at any hospital suspended or revoked? 10 11 Α. No. Q. Or applied for privileges to a 12 13 hospital and been denied? 14 No. Α. 15 Q. Are you board certified? 16 Α. Yes. 17 Q. Which boards? American Board of Internal Medicine 18 Α. and American Board of Internal Medicine/ 19 20 Cardiology. 21 How long have you been board Q. 22 certified in both of those areas? 23 The internal medicine examination and Α. certification commenced in '91 and the 24 25 cardiology certification commenced in '93.

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Page 5 1 0. When you say commenced, what do you 2 mean by that? 3 Basically, that's when I completed Α. 4 the certification examination. 5 Ο. Were you successful in becoming certified, board certified in both areas, on 6 7 your first attempt? 8 Α. No. 0. 9 Let's talk about internal medicine. How many attempts did you make? 10 I took the internal medicine boards 11 Α. 12 three times. 13 Q. And the cardiology boards? 14 Α. Once. 15 Q. Did you have to participate in any additional residency training --16 17 Α. No. 18 Ο. -- before being able to take the internal medicine boards again? 19 20 Α. No. 21 Q. I know sometimes there is a requirement that you go back for further 22 training, but that wasn't the situation? 23 24 There was no stipulations, no. Α. 25 Q. I reviewed the interrogatory answers

Page 6 that you provided through Mr. Lenson and I know 1 2 that you indicated that you have been named as a 3 defendant in medical negligence cases before. I'm not sure that you gave me in the 4 5 interrogatory answers the number of times. So I am going to ask you a few questions about that. 6 7 I'm not going to repeat that which you already 8 answered in the interrogatories, but tell me how 9 many times you have been named as a defendant. 10 MR. LENSON: Object. You can answer, 11 doctor. 12 MR. MISHKIND: You can have a continuing objection. 13 14 Q. Go ahead and answer. To my recollection, twice. 15 Α. 16 Q. This is the third situation that you have been named as a defendant? 17 18 Α. Correct. Q. The one case that you referenced. 19 Т 20 don't know if I have the interrogatories with 21 me. MR. LENSON: Let me show the doctor. 22 23 There it is. 24 THE WITNESS: Okay, yes. 25 MR. MISHKIND: If **I** could see that

Page 7 for a second, just borrow Mr. Lenson's copy. 1 2 Q. Let me give you the opportunity, is 3 there any clarification you need to make on the 4 record given this interrogatory answer to your 5 previous answer? There is a discrepancy. 6 Α. Yes. That 7 says one and I have two. There is a recollection of one other case that was settled, 8 9 and those are the only two cases. 10 Ο. All right. The one that is referenced here, Diana Seliga, S-E-L-I-G-A, was 11 settled in 1991? 12 13 Α. Correct. 14 Ο. And that's an accurate statement? 15 Α. Yes. 16 The other lawsuit against you was Ο, dismissed? 17 18 MR. LENSON: Howard, to clarify, I 19 believe there was one other that he just now 20 told me about that was settled. All others have 21 been dismissed, without compensation. 22 MR. MISHKIND: So there were three 23 lawsuits before --24 MR. LENSON: There may be more, but 25 all of them were dismissed, other than Seliga

	Page 8
1	and the one he is about to tell you about.
2	Q. Doctor, what I want to ask you about
3	is how many times have you been named as a
4	defendant where you have been served with papers
5	for court, whether they were dismissed or
6	payments made or trials occurred, just how many
7	times in total, including or excluding this
8	case?
9	A. I don't have an exact number, but I
10	would approximate four to five.
11	Q. And the four to five would include
12	the Edwards' matter or would that now make it an
13	additional five to six?
14	A. Five to six.
15	Q. Just so I don't mischaracterize your
16	testimony, I think you told me that there have
17	been two cases that were settled with payments
18	made?
19	A. Correct.
20	Q. One is the Seliga matter?
21	A. Correct.
22	Q. Do you remember the name of the other
23	case?
24	A. I think the name is Brandice.
25	Q. Do you remember the subject matter of

Page 9 1 the Brandice case? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. What was it, please? 4 Brandice, this was an individual that Α. 5 had coronary bypass surgery that expired in the postoperative period. б 7 Q. Are you an invasive cardiologist? 8 Α. Yes. Q. Do you do bypass? 9 10 Α. No. Q. 11 Do you do heart catherizations? 12 Α. Correct. 13 0. Were you managing the patient -- was it Mr. Brandice? 14 15 Α. No, it was a woman. Mrs. Brandice? 16 0. 17 Α. Yes. Were you managing her care in the 18 Ο. 19 postoperative period after the CABG was done? 20 Α. The postoperative care delivered to 21 virtually all post coronary bypass surgery 22 patients is given by the surgeons, by the 23 cardiac surgeon. 24 The Brandice case, as it relates to 0. 25 you, was settled with some monetary payment

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Page 10 being made on your behalf; true? 1 2 Α. Correct. 3 How long ago was the Brandice case? Q, 4 Α. Prior to the Seliga case. I don't know the exact date, but prior to. 5 6 Q. The Seliga case you had was settled 7 in '91, so sometime before '91, the Brandice 8 case? 9 Α. Yes. 10 Ο. And those are the only two that you 11 were involved in where payments were made on 12 your behalf? 13 Α. Correct. 14 Are you currently named as a Q. 15 defendant in any other cases besides this case? 16 Α. No. 17 Ο. So the other cases, the three or 18 four, whatever number that have been filed against you, have all eventually been dismissed 19 20 without payments being made? 21 Α. Correct. 22 Q. Did any of those cases go to trial? 23 Α. That, I don't know. 24 Were you ever in a courtroom Ο. defending yourself before a jury or a judge on 25

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Page 11 1 any malpractice case? 2 Α. No. Q. Did any of those cases involve issues 3 concerning -- and I'll break it down --4 5 preoperative clearance for a cardiac patient undergoing a noncardiac surgery? б 7 Α. No. Q. Did any of those cases involve 8 postoperative management of a patient, one of 9 your patients that had undergone noncardiac 10 11 surgery? 12 Α. No. 13 Q. I'm going to get your CV, so I will 14 very quickly skim over a couple things with you. 15 You went to medical school where, 16 sir? 17 Hahnemann Medical School. Α. 18 Q. Graduated what year? 19 Α. 1977. 20 Q. Your practice at Severance Circle, is 21 it a solo practice? 2.2 Α. Correct. 23 Q. And pretty much has that been your 24 practice over the years? 25 Α. Yes.

Page 12 Q. So when Mr. Edwards was a patient of 1 2 yours, going back a number of years, and he would see you in the office, would he be seen 3 exclusively by you? When I say that, if there 4 5 were any physician interactions, was it always 6 by you? 7 Α. Yes, always me. Q. 8 Have you done any publishing of 9 anything in the medical literature? 10 Α. Yes. Ο. How many articles or book chapters 11 have you published? 12 Approximately three articles which 13 Α. 14 were case reports. 15 0. And are they delineated on your CV? 16 At least one is. Α. 0. Tell me about the articles. 17 One article was Conduction 18 Α. Abnormalities in a Patient with Cancer. 19 Another article I was a co-author, the Significance of 20 21 Elevated Troponin Level in Patients with 22 Congestive Heart Failure and Systemic 23 Hypertension. 24 Q. The Conduction Abnormalities in a 25 Patient with Cancer, what type of cancer was

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Page 13 1 that? 2 Α. Lung cancer, as I recall. 0. 3 Where was that article published? Journal of Cancer. I would have to 4 Α. 5 get that reference for you. Q. Would that be difficult for you to 6 7 provide Mr. Lenson with when you provide him with a CV? 8 9 Α. It would take some time. Q. 10 Do you know what year it was 11 published? 12 Α. Approximately 1986 to '88. 13 MR. LENSON: Is it on your CV, 14 doctor? 15 THE WITNESS: That one is not. Ι 16 don't think so, no. 17 Were you the lead author on that? Q. 18 Α. No. Who was the lead author? 19 Ο. Dr. Hassan Tahsildar. 20 Α. 21 MR. LENSON: He is an oncologist. 2.2 MR. MISHKIND: Where does the doctor 23 practice? 24 MR. LENSON: Lake County. 25 MR. MISHKIND: Can you spell his last

Page 14 name for me? 1 2 MR. LENSON: T-A-H-S-I-L-D-A-R. 3 MR. MISHKIND: Hassan? 4 MR. LENSON: Yes. 5 MR. MISHKIND: Thank you. 6 Q. The second article that you 7 referenced, what was that published in? 8 That article is currently being Α. 9 submitted to various journals. The lead author is currently a research fellow at Cleveland 10 Clinic. 11 Q. 12 What is his name? 13 Α. His name is George -- I'm blocking his name. I'm sorry, I'm blocking his name. It 14 15 will come to me. 16 Q. If you think of it during the --17 Angeliu A-N-G-E-L-I-U or something Α. 18 like that. Ο. The third article is the one that's 19 20 referenced in your CV? This is the article that's referenced 21 Α. in the CV. 2.2 The third article, again, this is my 23 24 recollection. I'm not a prolific writer, as you 25 can see.

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Page 15 Q. What is the third article on? 1 2 Α. I could not elucidate that at this point in time. 3 4 Ο. Have you done any research at all in 5 preparation for today's deposition? 6 Α. No. 7 Q. Are you relying on any articles with 8 regard to your preoperative clearance of Mr. Edwards in terms of what you did in this 9 10 case? 11 Not specific articles, but general, Α. you know, cardiology principles and the 12 13 referenced textbooks. 14 Ο. Which referenced textbooks would you 15 be relying on? 16 Hurst, and also the various Α. guidelines that are produced by American College 17 of Cardiology and American Heart Association. 18 Which specific quidelines do you 19 0. believe to be relevant to this case? 20 21 The quidelines that reference Α. 22 perioperative management of cardiac patients for 23 noncardiac surgery. 24 Q. Any other guidelines that you believe to be relevant to this case? 25

Page 16 Α. No. 1 2 Ο. Do you believe the quidelines on 3 perioperative management of cardiac patients for 4 noncardiac surgeries to be a reasonably reliable 5 source of information as it relates to what is 6 expected of a cardiologist? 7 Α. Yes. 8 Dr. D'Hue was the surgeon? Ο. 9 Α. Correct. 10 You provided clearance, medical Q. 11 clearance for Mr. Edwards; true? 12 Α. Cardiology clearance, yes. 13 You had been Mr. Edwards' Ο. 14 cardiologist for a number of years? 15 Α. Correct. 16 Ο. I see that he had had coronary artery 17 bypass surgery years back? 18 Α. Correct. 19 I now know that you were not the Ο. 20 surgeon to do that. 21 Α. I was not. 22 Ο. Do you recall who the surgeon was? 23 Α. Dr. Thomas Santoscoy. 24 MR. LENSON: 0 - Y. 25 Where did he do the surgery? Q.

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Page 17 1 Α. Huron Hospital. 2 0. Have you talked to Dr. D'Hue at all 3 about the Molvin Edwards case? 4 Α. No. 0. 5 Since the time the lawsuit was filed, 6 the answer is no? 7 Α. No. Q. What about since the time that 8 Mr. Edwards passed away, have you talked to 9 Dr. D'Hue at all about --10 11 Only that he expired. Α. 12 Q. When did you learn that Mr. Edwards 13 had passed away? 14 Α. To my recollection, I was called that he had arrested. 15 MR. LENSON: I think he is asking 16 17 when, too, doctor, if you remember. 18 THE WITNESS: I do not remember the 19 date. 20 Ο. There is a reference on the code 21 sheet to notification of physicians and your name is on there. 22 23 Α. Okay. 24 Q. Do you have a recollection of being 25 notified at or around the time that the code had

Page 18 1 been completed and he had expired? 2 I can't attest to when I received the Α. 3 call relative to what the events in the hospital 4 were, but I do recall getting a call. 5 Q. Any recollection as to who the call came from? б 7 Α. Not really. 8 Q. Was it a nurse or a physician? I can't really say. 9 Α. Q. Did you make any type of notation in 10 your chart or your records concerning that 11 12 telephone call? 13 Α. No. 14 Q. Mr. Lenson permitted me to look through your office records and you have them in 15 front of you; correct? 16 17 Α. Correct. Q. Or to your side. Feel free to 18 reference them during the course of the 19 20 deposition. 21 Is that a complete set of records on Mr. Edwards? 22 A complete set of office records. 23 Α. Ι 24 cannot attest to anything that happened in the 25 hospital. It may not be contained here.

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	Page 19
1	Q. Has there been anything removed from
2	that file that relates to medical treatment of
З	Mr. Edwards?
4	A. No.
5	Q. Had you had an opportunity to treat
6	any of Mr. Edwards' family over the years?
7	A. No.
8	${\Bbb Q}$. Did you ever meet his daughter, his
9	granddaughter?
10	MR. LENSON: Granddaughter?
11	MR. MISHKIND: His daughter, I'm
12	sorry.
13	A. I met a daughter. I'm not sure what
14	her name is, but there was a daughter that
15	consistently accompanied Mr. Edwards.
16	Q. And did you meet any grandchildren?
17	A. No. Not that I recall.
18	Q. After Mr. Edwards' death, did you
19	have an opportunity to talk to any family
20	members, daughter, granddaughter, or anyone
21	identifying themselves as an Edwards family
22	member?
23	A. No.
24	Q. Have you had any conversation at any
25	time with any nurses or house physicians after

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Page 20 Mr. Edwards' death related in any way to the 1 circumstances surrounding his death? 2 3 Α. No. 4 Q. In your file, do you have copies of any of the hospital records for the admission 5 6 for the cancer surgery leading up to the time of 7 his death? 8 Α. I'll have to refer. Q. 9 Okay. I have the face sheet of the 10 Α. admission with the demographic data. 11 I have a 12 consultation. 13 MR. LENSON: From whom, doctor? 14 THE WITNESS: That was performed by my resident; that I saw and I reviewed both the 15 16 documentation on the patient, and I also have a 17 discharge summary from that admission. 18 Q. Let's talk about the consultation. Ι think you've indicated a resident; is that 19 20 correct? 21 Α. Correct. 2.2 Ο. Did you see Mr. Edwards when he was 23 in the hospital? 24 Α. Yes, I did. Q. 25 If I could just see your copy just to

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Page 21 make sure I'm looking at the same thing. 1 MR. LENSON: That's not his consult. 2 3 MR. MISHKIND: Well, the consult 4 sheet that he is referring to. MR. LENSON: But that's not his. You 5 б asked if he had seen the patient in the 7 hospital. And he said yes, and that would be a 8 consult, but that's not the one. The report of consultation, I have a 9 Q. copy of it as well, so I wanted to make sure 10 that we were referring to the same document. 11 But this is not my document that I 12 Α. 13 provided when I saw the person personally. 14 Q. I understand that. The report of 15 consultation that is written, where it says signature of consultant, whose name is that? 16 17 That's Dr. Sylvia Labes, L-A-B-E-S. Α. Q. And Dr. Labes was a resident? 18 19 Yes, she was. Α. 20 Q. Was Dr. Labes working under your direction and control? 21 22 Α. Yes. 23 Q. What year was she in her residency? Obviously in 2000. 24 Α. 25 Q. What year of her program?

Page 22 Α. I would have to get that 1 2 documentation and reference that for you. 3 Ο. Is she still a resident that works 4 under vour --5 No, she is not. She finished her Α. 6 training and is in private practice now. 7 Private practice here in town? Ο. I don't think she is in town. 8 Α. Ι could find out where, but she is not in town. 9 10 Did she do all of her residency Ο. 11 training under your tutelage, if you will? Well, she did all of her residency 12 Α. 13 training at Huron Hospital. And were you the principal attending 14 0. under --15 I was an attending at that point in 16 Α. 17 time, yes. And certainly, when she did this 18 Ο. consult, it was pursuant to your direction; 19 20 correct? 21 Α. Correct. MR. LENSON: What's the date of that 22 23 consult? MR. MISHKIND: Requested January 25 24 and it is signed January 25. 25

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Page 23 1 (Discussion off the record.) 2 Ο. You also wrote a progress note in the 3 records; correct? 4 Α. Correct. 5 Q. Is your progress note written January 6 25? 7 Α. Yes. 8 If you want to get your progress note Ο. 9 in front of you. 10 If I could just see it. Is this a 11 copy of your progress note dated January 25? 12 Α. To the best of my knowledge, yes. 13 Ο. And your signature is in the lower right-hand corner? 14 15 Α. Yes. 16 Ο. Is that the only progress note that 17 you have in the chart? 18 Α. No. 19 Q. What other dates do you have progress 20 notes? 21 Α. I think it's January 27th. 22 Ο. Before we talk about the 23 hospitalization itself, I want to talk about Mr. Edwards' medical condition before he was 24 25 cleared medically for the surgery.

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Page 24 1 Α. Yes. 2 Q. I take it that you are not an expert 3 in the area of this cancer? 4 Α. Not at all. 5 Q. Do you have any knowledge as to Mr. Edwards' prognosis had he not died as it 6 7 relates to the cancer? 8 As it relates to the cancer? Α. Q. 9 Yes. 10 Α. No, I do not. Independently of talking 11 MR. LENSON: 12 to Dr. D'Hue or anybody? 13 MR. MISHKIND: Right. 14 MR. LENSON: In other words, do you have your own opinion or opinion based upon 15 information provided by 16 ---17 MR. MISHKIND: No. 18 Ο. Do you have any expertise to comment 19 on what Mr. Edwards' prognosis was relative to the cancer that he had? 20 21 Α. No. 22 Q. Or what his prognosis was following 23 the surgery in terms of any morbidity or 24 mortality associated with this type of cancer? 25 Α. No.

	Page ∠5
1	Q. Now, because curiosity frequently
2	killed the cat, I will ask you, have you had any
3	conversations with Dr. D'Hue at any time prior
4	to the lawsuit, since the lawsuit, where he has
5	given you any indication as to Mr. Edwards'
6	prognosis with this type of cancer?
7	A. The only discussion that I had with
8	Dr. D'Hue was that he needed clearance. He had
9	oropharyngeal cancer the type, I do not
10	know and that it appeared from the
11	preliminary evaluation that it was localized to
12	the site and that the surgery was being done for
13	cure.
14	Q. So that certainly sounds like good
15	news going into surgery.
16	A. If it was not for a curative
17	procedure, I would not have cleared it.
18	Q. Is that the only time that you had
19	any conversation with Dr. D'Hue about
20	Mr. Edwards and his prognosis prior to surgery
21	or the kind of morbidity or mortality that he
22	likely was going to be subjected to after
23	undergoing this type of surgery?
24	A. Yes.
25	Q. Now, I have some questions for you
í	

Page 26 relative to -- I don't mean to jump around, but 1 2 I'm going to go back before the hospitalization 3 now and hopefully I will clear that out and then we will talk about the events that occurred at 4 5 the hospital. Okay? 6 Α. Okay. 7 0. You had back in 1994 -- I'm looking 8 specifically to August 19, 1994 if you want to 9 take a look at your records. You had noted that if Mr. Edwards' symptoms were to recur, you 10 11 would recommend a diagnostic cardiac cath. Do 12 you see that? 13 Α. Yes. After 1994, did you ever perform any 14 Ο. 15 diagnostic catheterizations? 16 If you just let me thumb through the Α. 17 records. 18 Q. Take your time. 19 (Pause.) 20 Α. No, I did not. 21 A, echo was performed in December of Ο. '95; true? December 18th? 22 Yes, December 18th, yes. 23 Α. And at that time, there were a number 24 Q. 25 of findings, left ventricular dilatation, as

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Page 27 well as left ventricular dysfunction? 1 2 Α. Yes. 3 Also apparently some thickening of Ο. 4 aortic stenosis and aortic insufficiency? 5 Α. Yes. 6 Q. From 1995 up through 1999, 7 Mr. Edwards would see you on a fairly regular 8 basis for cardiac monitoring; is that correct? 9 Α. Correct. 10 Was he a compliant patient? Q. 11 Α. Yes, he was. 12 Because he had been your patient as Ο. 13 long as he had, I presume you remember 14 Mr. Edwards? 15 Α. Very well. 16 I will ask this, because I don't want Q. 17 to assume anything. Did you have any interaction with Mr. Edwards on a social basis? 18 19 Α. None. 20 Q. Did he ever invite you anywhere or 21 you him? 22 Α. I never invited him anywhere. Whether he invited me, I have no recollection, 23 24 but that's very common. 25 Was he a personable kind of Q.

Page 28 gentleman? 1 2 In terms of -- was he a nice guy? Α. Q. 3 Was his affect flat, was he jovial, was he personable? 4 5 He was a normal person. Α. 6 0. Sometimes patients come in, 7 especially cardiac patients, and they are always 8 down and depressed and worried about their cardiac condition to the point where they hardly 9 10 say anything. 11 Did he seem to be active and 12 interacting with you? 13 Α. Yes. Q. 14 Is there anything that stands out in your mind about Mr. Edwards in terms of anything 15 16 that you would describe as negative in terms of 17 how he complied with your medical treatment? 18 Α. No. 19 Q. Or what he was doing relative to any noncardiac related matters that you were aware 20 21 of? 22 I don't understand that. Α. Q. 23 Was there anything that you saw from 24 the standpoint of his overall health status that 25 you were concerned about with regard to

Page 29 Mr. Edwards, things that he was doing that he 1 2 shouldn't have been doing? My recollection is that he was a 3 Α. 4 compliant individual. I was not his internist. 5 Q. Do you recall who his internist was? The record shows. 6 Α. MR. LENSON: It may have changed, but 7 to your best knowledge. 8 9 To my best knowledge, the record Α. shows Dr. Andrew Jimerson at the time of at 10 least the original cardiac catherization and 11 12 procedure. 13 0. So if I can make a broad statement, 14 from 1995 up until 1999, Mr. Edwards would see 15 you on a fairly regular basis, he was compliant as far as you knew with his medical management, 16 17 and he was a gentleman who basically lived independently. He wasn't in any type of an 18 assisted living facility; he was able to 19 20 function, as far as you knew? 21 Α. Correct. He wasn't a cardiac cripple, if you 22 Q. 23 will? 24 Α. No. 25 Q. He had a lot of coronary artery

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Page 30 1 disease; correct? 2 Α. Yes. Ο. 3 He had hypertension, which he was medicated for; correct? 4 5 Let me just reference that. Α. 6 (Pause.) 7 Yes, he had hypertension. Α. Ο. And that was being managed with what 8 9 medication? 10 He was on Accupril, 20 milligrams per Α. Yes, he was on Accupril, 20 milligrams per 11 day. 12 day. Q. 13 Now, I touched on a moment ago the comment that you had made that if symptoms 14 15 recur, we will do a cardiac cath. And from 16 1994, we went a number of years where he was 17 seen and I think you told me there was no cardiac catherization done; true? 18 19 Correct. Α. Q. In October of 1999 -- you saw him on 20 21 October 8, 1999, if my records are accurate. 2.2 Α. Yes. Q. 23 Do you have that note in front of 24 you? 25 Α. Yes.

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Page 31 0. At that time he had complaints of 1 2 chest fullness? 3 Uh-huh. Α. 4 MR. LENSON: You have to answer yes, 5 doctor. 6 Α. Yes. Sorry. 0. 7 And if you don't, Mr. Lenson will remind you. 8 9 MR. LENSON: I will. 10 0. And if I read your notes correctly, 11 on that visit, I think you made a similar 12 statement that you had made back in August of '94, if symptoms persist, may need repeat 13 cardiac cath; correct? 14 15 Α. Correct. 16 Q. Now, it had been five years since you 17 had made that statement about repeating the cardiac cath. 18 19 Α. Yes. Q. 20 He returns October '99, has 21 complaints of chest fullness. Why didn't you at that time recommend a cardiac catherization? 22 23 Α. Because as stated in my note of October 8th of '99, his symptoms were 24 inconsistent, so my suspicion of this being 25

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Page 32 truly a cardiac problem was not very acute. 1 2 Q. He returned to your office on 3 December 1, 1999; correct? 4 Α. Yes. Q. 5 Did you see him at all between October 8 and December 1? 6 Not in the office. And I have no 7 Α. recollection of other instanc s that I may have 8 9 seen him between those times. 10 0. Over the course of the years that you saw Mr. Edwards, did he ever experience either 11 chronic or acute episodes of anemia? 12 I would have to refer back to my 13 Α. notes. However, that is something that would be 14 15 monitored by his primary care physician. 16 (Pause.) 17 Relative to my laboratory Α. 18 documentation, I have no evidence of anemia. Q. 19 Mr. Edwards carried a diagnosis throughout the years under your care of both 20 21 chronic stable angina as well as compensated CHF; correct? 22 23 Α. Correct. 24 Q. What do you mean by compensated CHF? 25 No symptoms. Α.

Page 33 1 What significance would an acute Ο. 2 episode of anemia potentially have on a patient 3 that has compensated congestive heart failure and chronic stable angina? 4 5 Α. Could you repeat the question? 6 If one of your cardiac Ο, Sure. 7 patients that has the ongoing diagnosis that Mr. Edwards had experiences an acute episode of 8 9 anemia, of what significance, if any, is that to 10 you as a cardiologist? 11 That is an issue that needs to be Α. 12 evaluated in terms of if that anemia is contributing to the patient decompensating; 13 14 tachycardia, for example. If those clinical 15 indicators are suggestive that the anemia is 16 affecting the person hemodynamically, you would want to, of course, transfuse those individuals. 17 Can anemia in a cardiac patient lead 18 Ο. 19 to a fatal arrhythmia? 20 MR. LENSON: Hypothetically now? 21 MR. MISHKIND: Yes. 22 Α. Hypothetically, yes. 23 What is the compensatory mechanism of Ο. 24 the heart when a patient is acutely anemic? 25 Α. Tachycardia.

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Page 34 Q. Are there any other compensatory 1 mechanisms? 2 3 Α. No. 4 Ο. Are there any concerns that you have 5 as a cardiologist treating a patient that has acute anemia in terms of -- strike that. 6 That 7 was poorly worded. I was never going to get to where I wanted to be. 8 9 How do you treat acute anemia in a 10 cardiac patient? 11 MR. LENSON: Objection. You are 12 assuming he treats them. 13 Q. If you have a cardiac patient that 14 you test and the patient is acutely anemic. 15 MR. FARCHIONE: Objection. 16 I just would like to clarify. What Α. 17 do you mean acutely anemic? Q. If there is a drop in the patient's 18 hematocrit and hemoglobin from their normal 19 baseline and you have a patient that has 20 compensated congestive heart failure and stable 21 2.2 and nonsymptomatic angina. 23 MR. LENSON: This is a nonsurgical 24 patient, a patient in the office without having 25 undergone any surgical intervention?

Page 35 1 MR. MISHKIND: Right. We will get to 2 the hospitalization. MR. LENSON: I want to make sure that 3 this is a patient that presents in the office 4 for a regular checkup, cardiological checkup and 5 demonstrates now acute anemia. 6 MR. MISHKIND: You are correct. 7 Α. The treatment? 8 9 0. Yes. Evaluation. Surveillance for cardiac 10 Α. 11 manifestations, and decompensation from that 12 anemia. And if those things are not present, and the level of anemia is acceptable, 13 diagnostic treatments for the cause of anemia. 14 15 0. And what are the diagnostic treatments of the cause of anemia? 16 17 Gastrointestinal procedures. Blood Α. count for iron, various vitamins and the like. 18 19 Ο. Are there any particular concerns that you had as a cardiologist in terms of 20 transfusing a patient that has compensated 21 congestive heart failure? 22 23 Again, rephrase that, please. Α. 24 Ο. Sure. One of the treatment 25 modalities when you have a patient that is

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Page 36 1 anemic is to provide them with blood 2 transfusions; right? 3 Α. Correct. 4 Ο. Are there any issues that have to be 5 balanced from a cardiac standpoint in terms of giving a person that has compensated congestive 6 heart failure blood transfusions? 7 Α. 8 Yes. 9 What are the issues that you have to 0. take into account? 10 11 Decompensation of the heart. Α. 12 Q. Exacerbating the congestive heart failure? 13 14 Α. Yes. 0. 15 Is that an issue of the timing of the transfusions or the amount of transfusion or 16 17 both? Usually the amount. 18 Α. 19 Ο. After Mr. Edwards saw Dr. D'Hue, he 20 was apparently referred to you for medical 21 clearance for purposes of undergoing the 22 surgery; is that correct? 23 Α. Yes. Q. Did you talk to Dr. D'Hue at that 2.4 point in time about Mr. Edwards? 25 Is that when
Page 37 you had the conversation with him? 1 2 Α. Yes. You did an echo at the time you did 3 0. the medical clearance; is that correct? 4 Let me check. Yes. 5 Α. MR. LENSON: Is that 12-19, doctor? б 7 THE WITNESS: Yes. I'm looking 8 for -- no, that was 1-19. 9 Do you have that? Q. Here is the echo report. 10 Α. 11 MR. LENSON: It's summarized in your 12 chart? THE WITNESS: Yes, it is. 13 That showed 30 percent injection 14 Q. 15 fraction? 16 Α. Yes. 17 MR. FARCHIONE: Did you say 30 18 percent? 19 MR. MISHKIND: Yes. Can you tell me, reflecting back on 20 Q. the echo that had been done back in '95, whether 21 22 there was any significant change in his cardiac function between December of '95 and January of 23 2000? 24 25 Relative to the reports, none. Α.

Page 38 So his diagnosis that he carried in 1 0. 2 2000 was pretty much the diagnosis that he had had back in '95 from a cardiac standpoint; true? 3 4 Α. Yes. 5 MR. FARCHIONE: You said 30 percent. I am looking at something that said 20 to 30 6 percent for ejection fraction. Did you have 7 another page? 8 I'm looking at my note 9 MR. MISHKIND: 10 which I marked down 30 percent. MR. FARCHIONE: The note I have says 11 12 20 to 30 percent. 13 That's what is listed here, 20 to 30 Α. 14 percent. I don't have the copy in front of me. 15 Ο. 16 I'm looking at my scribble here. These are 17 qualitative estimates from an echo. 18 What I want to get an idea of, we 19 have an echo in '95 and an echo in 2000, and 20 there is no significant change from a 21 decompensation standpoint cardiac-wise in 22 Mr. Edwards from '95 to 2000; true? 23 Α. Correct. 24 Ο. Whether it's 20 or 30 percent, he was 25 basically the same?

1 Α. The same. 2 Q. Function, the ticker was working 3 about the same? The same, that's right. 4 Α. Did you have any concerns in clearing 5 0. Mr. Edwards for the surgery? 6 7 MR. LENSON: Objection. When you say 8 concerns, other than what he objectively 9 evaluated? Ο. 10 Did you have any concerns from a 11 cardiac standpoint in terms of permitting Mr. Edwards to undergo the proposed surgery? 12 13 I had no concerns that Mr. Edwards Α. would not be able to tolerate the surgery. 14 15 There was on December 20th of '99 an 0. EKG that had been performed. I'm not sure 16 17 whether that was in your office or in Dr. D'Hue's. Do you have a December 20, 1999 18 EKG? 19 20 Α. No, I did not see him on December 21 20th. And I have no -- no, I don't. 22 Q. In terms of your clearance for the surgery, did you make any recommendations in 23 24 terms of any pre or perioperative medication that you wanted used? 25

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	Page 40
1	A. No, I did not.
2	Q. Did you recommend any beta blockers?
3	A. No, I did not.
4	Q. Why?
5	A. Because this individual had
6	compensated congestive heart failure. To
7	initiate a medication that may potentially cause
8	decompensation at a time when he would be in the
9	hospital would not be in the best judgment of
10	the patient.
11	Q. Under what circumstances would you
12	use beta blockers on a cardiac patient that's
13	undergoing noncardiac surgery?
14	A. I would use it when I had enough time
15	to evaluate the effect of that beta blocker
16	before the individual went to surgery,
17	especially in someone that has left ventricular
18	dysfunction as their baseline.
19	Q. You did see Mr. Edwards before he
20	went for the surgery?
21	A. Yes, I did.
22	Q. If you can get your January 25
23	consult. Just so I make sure that I'm not
24	missing anything, can you read into the record
25	what your note says?

Page 41 1-25-00 cardiology. Patient known to Α. 1 2 me with history CABG, coronary artery bypass graft. CHF, congestive heart failure, HTN, 3 4 hypertension. Found to have oropharyngeal CA, cancer. Currently no symptoms of angina/CHF, no 5 palpitations or syncope. б ECG, 7 electrocardiogram, sinus rhythm, LVH, left ventricular hypertrophy, nonspecific ST, T 8 changes. PE, physical exam, VSS, vital sign 9 stable. Blood pressure 140/70. Pulse, 70s. 10 No 11 JVD, jugular venous distention. Heart regular No S3. 2/6 SEM systolic ejection 12 rhythm. murmur. Lungs, hyphen, clear. EXT. 13 14 extremities, no edema. CXR, chest x-ray, no CHF, minimal blunting of costophrenic angles. 15 16 Labs, hyphen, K plus potassium 4.3, BUN/creatinine, 13/1.2. 17 H and H, hemoglobin/hematocrit, 13/40. 18 Impression, stable, no signs of angina/CHF. 19 20 Chest x-ray, probably chronic pleural changes. 21 Plan, cleared for surgery, R. Dickerson. Q. What was the significance, if any, of 22 the minimal blunting? 23 24 Α. None. 25 Q. Was that part of the chronic pleural

Page 42 1 changes? 2 Probably, yes. That is a common Α. 3 finding. Did you see Mr. Edwards between the 4 0. 5 time that he had the dilatation of the esophagus and when he had the radical neck dissection? 6 7 If you could tell me when he had the Α. dilatation of the esophagus. 8 Q. The 25th, and then the radical neck 9 10 on the 26th. 11 No, I did not. Α. 12 Ο. Did you order any post-op EKG's? 13 Α. I would have to refer to the record, to the hospital record. 14 15 (Pause.) 16 I do not see any orders from me for Α. 17 an EKG, no. Q. Did you order cardiac enzymes at any 18 19 time on a postoperative basis? 20 Α. I did not see an order from me for 21 that, no. 22 MR. LENSON: Were there any orders from you at all, post-op? 23 24 THE WITNESS: No. 25 Q. Now, did you see Mr. Edwards when he

Page 43 1 was in the ICU after surgery? 2 Α. Yes. 3 Q. On what day did you see him? I would assume that was the 27th. 4 Α. 5 Ο. Is that the last note that you wrote 6 in the chart? 7 Α. Yes, it is. 8 And again, just to make sure that I'm Q. 9 not missing anything that you have written, it's a shorter note, so it will take less time. 10 11 Α. 1-27-00. Hemodynamically stable, 12 awake, alert, communicating with sign language. Vital signs stable. Blood pressure 130 over 80. 13 14 Regular rhythm murmur unchanged. Lungs clear, extremities, no edema, labs stable. 15 Impression, tolerated procedure well. Plan, same, restart 16 17 outpatient medications, watch for fluid overload 18 and CHF. 19 Ο. Now, were you seeing him on 20 consultation or were you seeing him just to 21 follow up because he was your cardiac patient? 22 Α. Consultation. 23 Q. At the request of Dr. D'Hue? 24 Α. Correct. 25 Q. And the 27th is the last time that

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Page 44 you saw Mr. Edwards alive? 1 2 Α. The last documented note that I have. 3 0. Do you have any recollection of 4 seeing Mr. Edwards at any time prior to his 5 demise after the 27th? 6 I can't document that. Α. 7 MR. LENSON: Do you have any recollection? 8 9 Α. I think I did. I usually see all my patients every day. Me writing notes every day, 10 I have residents sometimes document that we saw 11 12 the patient. Q. On the 28th, the following day, 13 Mr. Edwards was transferred to telemetry, and 14 15 then it's on the telemetry floor that he expired 16 early morning on the 29th. I tell you that just 17 to give you a framework. Do you recall seeing him on the telemetry floor on the 28th? 18 I recall making rounds with the 19 Α. resident, but again --20 21 MR. LENSON: The question is specific. Do you recall seeing this patient? 22 23 THE WITNESS: No. 2.4 MR. LENSON: Not what your standard 25 is.

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Page No, I do not. 1 Α. 2 Q. If you could look at the doctor's orders on the 28th. 3 4 Α. Okay. There is a long list of orders 5 Ο. starting at 9:00 a.m. Transferred to 6 main б telemetry and at the very bottom there is a 7 note, transfuse, towards the bottom. Do you see 8 9 that? 10 Α. Yes. 0. 11 Whose order was that to transfuse? 12 That appears to be one of the Α. 13 surgical residents. 14 Q. And would that be a resident under 15 Dr. D'Hue? 16 Α. Correct. 17 MR. LENSON: All he can say, it's a 18 surgical resident. 19 Q. As best as you know, would it be a 20 surgical resident that would be working in 21 conjunction with Dr. D'Hue? 22 MS. HESS: Objection. 23 MR. LENSON: All you can say is it's a surgical resident? 24 25 Α. A surgical resident.

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Page 46 1 Q. Do you know which surgical resident 2 it was? 3 Α. I think this signature is Namury, I 4 think. 5 How does doctor --Q. 6 Α. I'm not sure. 7 Q. Do you know Dr. Namury? 8 He is currently a resident. Well, if Α. 9 he is currently a resident, he couldn't have 10 been on this case. But I'm pretty sure this is 11 a surgical resident. And the reason being is because the patients are admitted to services 12 13 and those services have residents rather than 14 surgical or medical. This was a surgical admission of a patient and so these types of 15 16 tasks are designated to the surgeons and the 17 residents. 18 Q. Why didn't you order a postoperative EKG on Mr. Edwards? 19 20 Α. He was hemodynamically stable, 21 without any complaints. 22 Given his history, you didn't feel it Q., 23 was necessary to do a postoperative EKG? 24 Α. The information that you would 25 receive in an asymptomatic individual is

Page 47 1 limited. 2 Q. The transfusion order, even though it's not your order, are you able to decipher 3 4 what that order says? 5 MR. LENSON: Doctor, I don't want you 6 quessing. He can always depose the person that 7 wrote the order. I don't want you guessing. MR. MISHKIND: I'm not asking him to 8 9 quess. 10 MR. LENSON: That's what he would 11 have to do, because I'm not sure he could read 12 someone's order. 13 MR. MISHKIND: Murray, if that's an objection, object. 14 15 MR. LENSON: I don't want him to feel 16 obligated to read someone's. 17 Q. Doctor, I don't want you to feel obligated to answer any of my questions unless 18 19 you can do that. 20 Can you interpret what that says? 21 Transfuse, and then there is a note -- does that 22 say two units? 23 It appears that that's the notation, Α. 24 two units PRBC's, looks like packed red blood 25 cells.

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Page 48 1 Ο. And then it says each unit over -- is 2 that four hours? 3 Α. Yes. Q. 4 Mr. Edwards on January 28th had a hemoglobin that had dropped to 8.8. Was that 5 brought to your attention? 6 7 Α. It was noted. 8 MR. LENSON: Was it brought to your 9 attention? 10 No, it was not. THE WITNESS: 11 0. As his cardiologist, in a postoperative noncardiac surgery, should a drop 12 of the hemoglobin in your patient who had 13 14 previously not been chronically or acutely 15 anemic be brought to your attention? Could you repeat the question? 16 Α. Sure. There is no question that on 17 0. 18 January 28th his hemoglobin had dropped to 8.8. 19 The records indicate that. And I think you 20 probably have seen that, as well; correct? 21 Α. Yes. Q. 22 I asked you before whether or not he had ever been chronically or acutely anemic, and 23 you said no; correct? 24 25 Α. To my knowledge, yes.

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Page 49 Ο. 1 An 8.8 hemoglobin is a concerning 2 hemoglobin, is it not, in a patient who has not 3 previously had a low or --It is concerning if you do not know 4 Α. 5 the cause and if there is hemodynamic 6 instability. 7 Q. And over the course of time in the hospitalization postoperatively, if there is a 8 9 continued drop in the hemoglobin from the postoperative from 10 to 9 to 8.8, is there 10 reason to be concerned about what is causing the 11 12 drop in the hemoglobin? 13 Yes, there should be some concern. Α. Q. Is transfusion of your patient --14 15 Α. Of Dr. D'Hue's patient. Q. Of Mr. Edwards. 16 17 Α. Okav. Was that, in your opinion, a Q. 18 19 reasonable order to have been made? 20 MS. HESS: Objection. 21 MR. LENSON: Objection. Remember, 22 the reason I'm going to object, he is not a 23 surgical -- he can't utilize his surgical skills 24 because he can't testify as to what a surgeon 25 would do, but go ahead.

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1	Q. Doctor, so there is no question,
2	because I want your answers
3	MR. MISHKIND: And Murray, with all
4	due respect, if you want to object to something,
5	that's fine, but under the local rules I would
6	ask that you not make speeches or statements.
7	Q. I'm asking you from a medical
8	standpoint, from a hemodynamic standpoint in
9	your patient that's postoperatively day two
10	post-op that has a drop in his hemoglobin down
11	to 8.8, that has a history that you're aware of,
12	is it reasonable to order transfusions of two
13	units packed red blood cells each unit over a
14	four hour period for Mr. Edwards?
15	MS. HESS: Objection.
16	MR. LENSON: Objection.
17	A Transfusion, whether in the
18	postoperative period or not, in the cardiac
19	individual, the guidelines must also include the
20	stability of the individual, and if that level
21	of hemoglobin is responsible for any observed
22	hemodynamic alterations.
23	0 As best as you can tell from looking
24	at the record, what were the hemodynamic
25	alterations that led to an order being initiated

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Page 51 1 for transfusing packed red blood cells? 2 Up until the time that I saw Α. 3 Mr. Edwards on the 27th, he remained 4 hemodynamically stable. On the 28th, what were the 5 Q. hemodynamic parameters as you understand them б 7 that prompted an order for transfusion of packed 8 red blood cells on the morning of the 28th? 9 MS. HESS: Objection. 0. 10 You can go ahead. The objection is just for the record. 11 12 Not having evaluated him that day, I Α. have no response to that. I did not evaluate 13 14 him or there is no documentation for that. 15 Q. Did the nurses notify you that Mr. Edwards' hemoglobin levels had been 16 17 dropping? 18 Not to my knowledge. Α. Q. 19 Should they have notified you? That is not a nursing function, no. Α. 20 Q. Should you have been notified? 21 2.2 Well, that is a function of and all Α. of the data that is obtained is under the 23 24 responsibility of the attending physician, so 25 the nurses themselves do not have responsibility

Page 52 to report any laboratory data except what we 1 2 call panic values, and I'm not sure that this 3 was a panic value. 4 Q. Did you participate at all in or did 5 the cardiology team residents participate at all in the decision to initiate an order for 6 7 transfusion? MS. HESS: What was that question? 8 9 (Record read.) 10 Α. No. Q. 11 When a patient is transferred to 12 telemetry, how frequently are heart rhythm strips to be recorded in the chart? 13 14 I cannot attest to the hospital's Α. protocols for that. We would have to get the 15 16 protocols. 17 Q. There is a telemetry strip on the 18 28th, and I'll give you the time, just to reference it, but it looks to be about 11:24 19 20 a.m. 21 MR. LENSON: On the 28th, Howard? 22 MR. MISHKIND: On the 28th, correct. Q. Would you tell me whether you see in 23 lead two any deepening ST depression? 24 25 Deepening? Α.

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1	Q. Yes.
2	A. Compared to what?
3	Q. The previous strip.
4	MR. LENSON: The previous or previous
5	strips, plural?
6	MR. MISHKIND: The previous strip.
7	MR. LENSON: Do you have the previous
8	strip?
9	A. Well, in both of these tracings, the
10	patient does have nonspecific ST and T wave
11	changes. The telemetry monitoring system is not
12	designed to measure ST segment changes. The
13	design of the telemetry or the purpose of
14	telemetry is to monitor cardiac rhythms.
15	Q. Because of changes in body position,
16	the telemetry
17	A. Lead positions, various things.
18	Q may not be as reliable?
19	A. They are not standard well, they
20	should be standard, but they are not always
21	standard.
22	Q. How does one then determine whether
23	or not those ST segment depressions are
24	consistent with any myocardiac ischemia?
25	A. Electrocardiogram, symptomatology.

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Page 54 1 Ο. Did you see those rhythm strips at or around the time? 2 3 Α. On the 28th? 4 Q. Yes. 5 Α. I cannot attest to that. I did not 6 interpret any of these. 7 MR. LENSON: The answer is you don't 8 recall. 9 I don't recall. Α. Can you tell me, looking at those 10 Ο. strips, had you seen those at the time, whether 11 or not you would have ordered an EKG? 12 13 MR. LENSON: Objection as being speculative, but go ahead, doctor. 14 15 Α. No. 16 Q. No, you can't tell me, or no, you 17 wouldn't have? 18 Α. This strip would not have made me order an EKG on the basis of the strip itself. 19 20 In the context of a patient who has Ο. also had a drop in the hemoglobin, that there 21 22 has been an order for blood transfusion, would 23 that enter into whether you, having this 24 information brought to your attention, would 25 have ordered an EKG or any other diagnostic

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		Page 55
1	cardiac st	udies?
2		MS. HESS: Objection.
3	Α.	Again, rephrasing.
4	Q.	Go ahead.
5	Α.	If I would have known about
б	transfusic	on, and if all of these things were
7	brought to	my attention
8	Q.	Yes.
9	Α.	was there an indication for a
10	cardiogram	1?
11	Q.	Yes.
12	Α.	There was still no indication.
13	Q.	Would you have ordered an EKG?
14	Α.	Not necessarily.
15	Q.	Would you have ordered cardiac
16	isoenzymes	?
17	Α.	No.
18	Q.	Why not, as to both?
19	Α.	I would have spoken to the patient
20	and evalua	ted the hemodynamic stability of the
21	patient an	d the symptomatology.
22	Q.	The strip that we just talked about
23	at 11:34 -	- I'm sorry, 11:24 a.m. on the 28th
24	Α.	Is that still this?
25	Q.	Yes, sir. Do you see any other

Page 56 strips in the chart over the next 12 plus hours 1 2 prior to Mr. Edwards being found unresponsive in 3 his room? 4 MR. LENSON: After? 5 Α. After this strip, we would have to go through and document the times and the dates. 6 7 Q. As you are looking at this, what I'll represent on the record is I don't see any 8 rhythm strip after 11:24 a.m. through the 9 balance of the day up to and including before 10 and at the time of the code. I just want, 11 12 number one, to see whether or not there is anything that you have that might be different 13 14 than what I have. 15 No, not on that point, but I do see Α. 16 the same nonspecific ST and T wave changes. 17 MR. LENSON: That was not the 18 question, doctor. 19 Q. When do you see the same nonspecific ST and T wave changes? 20 21 Α. Even on the 26th. 22 Q. Can you explain to me why there are 23 no rhythm strips for this patient at any time 24 after 11:24 a.m. on January 28th and for the 25 balance of that day into the 29th?

	Page 57
1	MS. HESS: Objection.
2	MR. LENSON: Can you explain it?
3	A. I can't explain it, no.
4	Q. If the patient is on telemetry and
5	experiences an arrhythmia, or a fatal
6	arrhythmia, some type of arrhythmia, isn't the
7	telemetry unit set up such that rhythm strips
8	would automatically be on the patient?
9	A. I think the mechanics of the machine
10	is supposed to do that, yes.
11	Q. Do you see any rhythm strip at or
12	around the time that Mr. Edwards was found
13	unresponsive shortly after midnight on the 29th?
14	A. Looking through the documentation, I
15	don't see any strips from the 29th.
16	Q. Do you have any explanation again,
17	I recognize you did not see him but do you
18	have any explanation for why there isn't a
19	strip?
20	A. No, I do not.
21	Q. Under normal procedure, when a
22	patient codes and is on telemetry, is a rhythm
23	strip, number one, generated?
24	MR. LENSON: Objection. If you know,
25	doctor.

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1	A. Is the question, during the
2	resuscitation procedure?
3	Q. Actually, if a patient sustains
4	A. The code means resuscitation.
5	Q. If a patient sustains an arrhythmia
6	that leads to a state of unresponsiveness, is a
7	rhythm strip, when a patient is on telemetry, if
8	the equipment is on, is a rhythm strip
9	generated?
10	A. It should be.
11	Q. If one was not generated in this
12	case and the patient sustained an arrhythmia, do
13	you have any explanation for why there wouldn't
14	be such a strip in the chart?
15	A. No.
16	Q. Has anyone ever explained to you at
17	any time why there is no strip on Mr. Edwards
18	leading up to him becoming unresponsive and
19	being found shortly after midnight?
20	A. No.
21	Q. Do you have any explanation?
22	A. No.
23	Q. Do you see any evidence that
24	Mr. Edwards was ever transfused?
25	A. I would have to look through the

Page 59 records. 1 2 MR. LENSON: Do you want to represent 3 that there is none? 4 Q. Based upon my review of the 5 records -- and certainly I'm here to learn. I 6 learn every day. Sometimes I learn things I 7 want to learn and sometimes I learn things I don't want to learn. 8 9 I tell my residents the same thing. Α. 10 MR. LENSON: I'm not sure he has to 11 go through the record. If you are going to 12 represent that there is no indication, we will 13 go along with that. 14 MR. MISHKIND: And certainly counsel for the hospital is here and counsel for 15 Dr. D'Hue, if either of them have any evidence 16 that would suggest that the transfusion order 17 was carried out and the patient was given the 18 transfusion, I'm happy to hear from anyone. I 19 20 don't see any evidence. 21 MR. LENSON: You have no knowledge of 22 that? 23 THE WITNESS: I have none, no 24 knowledge. 25 Q. Do you see any orders or progress

Page 60 notes that indicates that that order was 1 2 cancelled or countermanded in any way? Α. Again, I will look through the 3 4 orders. 5 MR. LENSON: You will represent that 6 you found none, Howard? He is not making these 7 entries and I think you will have to ask the hospital people rather than the doctor. 8 No evidence. 9 Α. 10 Ο. Do you have an opinion, doctor, in 11 this case, whether it was below the standard of care for Mr. Edwards to have been transferred 12 13 from the ICU to telemetry with an order for transfusion, yet over the next essentially 24 14 15 hour period never receive a transfusion? 16 MR. LENSON: Objection. 17 MS. HESS: Objection. 18 MR. FARCHIONE: Objection. This is a 19 fact witness, not an independent expert. 20 Q. Do you have an opinion? 21 Α. No. 22 MR. LENSON: If the doctor is going 23 to render any opinions on standard of care other 24 than his own, we shall advise you, but as of 25 today, he is not. We will provide you with a

Page 61 1 report. 2 MR. MISHKIND: We can go around on 3 the Voik case. And we have had this discussion 4 before. I'm not raising the 5 MR. FARCHIONE: Voik case. You and I have talked about that 6 7 before. 8 MR. LENSON: I'm raising it because 9 the doctor is not here to testify as to the standard of care, the hospital, or any other 10 position, just his own care. 11 12 MR. MISHKIND: I know that, but certainly under normal circumstances I'm 13 14 entitled to cross-examine him on whether or not 15 he has any criticisms or opinions, and based 16 upon Voik versus Cleveland Clinic Foundation, 17 one has to at least be back on their haunches. 18 MR. LENSON: I represent to you if 19 the doctor is going to assert standard of care 20 for or against, we shall advise you and you will 21 have an opportunity to examine him again, but he 22 is not. 23 0. If one sees ST segment depression on 24 a telemetry strip in a post-op patient that has 25 a cardiac condition, should a 12 lead EKG and/or

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Page 62 1 cardiac enzymes be drawn? 2 MS. HESS: Objection. My standard is to examine the patient 3 Α. and try to discern from his signs and symptoms 4 5 if this is truly a cardiac issue or basically a mechanical problem with the monitor. 6 7 Q. How can you assess a patient that has ST segment depressions on a telemetry strip to 8 9 make that decision without being contacted by either the attending or the nurses on the floor? 10 MS. HESS: Objection. 11 12 I cannot. Α. 13 Q. Have you reviewed the autopsy at all? 14 Α. No. Ο. Do you have an opinion as to what 15 16 caused Mr. Edwards to become unresponsive? 17 MR. LENSON: Do you have an opinion, That's all he asked you. Yes or no? 18 doctor? 19 Α. No. Q. 20 You started answering, you have no opinion as to what the cause of death was in 21 22 this case? 23 Α. The cause of death in this case, I don't have an opinion, but my opinion about 24 25 death in people with cardiomyopathies and severe

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Page 63 coronary disease is that the mortality rate is 1 extremely high and these people do have episodes 2 3 of sudden death. Q. 4 If a patient has a bleed, a postoperative bleed, and is not given 5 appropriate medication to treat that anemia, can 6 7 the anemia lead to a fatal arrhythmia in a patient? 8 9 MS. HESS: Objection. MR. LENSON: He is asking you 10 11 hypothetically, doctor. 12 MR. FARCHIONE: Objection. 13 Α. Hypothetically, yes, depending on the level of the anemia. 14 In this particular patient, being at 15 Q. 16 8.8 in the hemoglobin, is that sufficient enough of a drop in the hemoglobin to cause the patient 17 18 to experience an abnormal arrhythmia? 19 MR. LENSON: Objection. 20 MS. HESS: Objection. 21 MR. FARCHIONE: Objection. I can only answer that relative in 22 Α. context to the stability in the hemodynamic 23 24 status of the patient as I saw him last, and the 25 last I saw him, he was very stable.

Page 64 0. Well, can you tell me whether you 1 2 assessed him from a hemodynamic standpoint on the 28th while he was on the telemetry floor 3 4 during the context of there being this order for 5 him to be transfused, or more likely, did you see him at some point in time before that order 6 7 had been given? 8 I saw him before, but I can't attest Α. to anything after the date that I saw him, which 9 was on the 27th. 10 11 Q. Fair enough. So that on the 28th, if there was an order given for blood transfusion, 12 13 what you are telling me is that you were not aware of that at any time on the 28th? 14 15 Α. Correct. Q. 16 You did not see him on the 28th to assess what his hemodynamic status was? 17 18 Α. Correct. 19 0. I take it, had you seen him on the 20 28th, you would have been aware -- one of the things doctors look at is to see what doctor's 21 22 orders are; correct? 23 Α. Yes. 24 Ο. So you would have looked and seen 25 there is an order for blood transfusion and you

Page 65 1 would wanted to have known whether or not the 2 patient had been transfused, and if not, why 3 not; correct? 4 Α. No. Potentially why would he get 5 transfused if he was hemodynamically stable. Q. Do you conclude that if someone has 6 ordered a blood transfusion that there must be 7 some evidence of hemodynamic instability? 8 9 Α. No. Q. 10 Why would someone order a blood transfusion in a postoperative patient that has 11 a cardiac history unless there is hemodynamic 12 instability? 13 14 MS. HESS: Objection. 15 Α. Unfortunately, most practitioners are not aware of the finer points of managing the 16 17 cardiac patient and what is necessary relative to symptomatology versus numbers, so you have 18 some people that, because the hemoglobin is 19 20 down, feel let's get the number looking well. There are numerous occasions and instances of 21 22 individuals in postoperative coronary bypass surgery that do not get transfused for these 23 24 types of numbers. 25 Q. So as to the decision for

Page 66 transfusion, you don't have an opinion whether 1 2 or not the decision was based upon appropriate 3 clinical parameters or not? 4 Α. Correct. Ο. From what you can see from the 5 record, for whatever reason that the order was 6 7 given, you don't see any evidence that it was actually implemented or followed through on; 8 9 true? 10 No, I don't. Α. 11 0. And if there were clinical 12 indications sufficient enough to justify the order in a cardiac patient, sufficient clinical 13 14 symptoms of anemia can, in fact, cause a fatal 15 arrhythmia: correct? 16 Α. Hypothetically. 17 Ο. And if that anemia is not balanced out or if the patient is not restored to their 18 19 hemodynamic status in a patient like Mr. Edwards with his cardiac history, he would be at 20 21 increased risk for fatal arrhythmia over a patient who has a drop in hemoglobin that 22 doesn't have a cardiac history; true? 23 24 Α. Mr. Edwards --25 MR. LENSON: Is that a true

Page 67 1 statement, doctor? 2 You have to tell me again. Α. 0. 3 Too much? 4 Α. Yes. Q. 5 A drop in the hemoglobin to 8.8 in 6 the context of Mr. Edwards' cardiac history --7 Α. History. Q. Right. With his compensated 8 9 congestive heart failure, et cetera, his left 10 ventricular function and everything else that he 11 had from a cardiac standpoint, was he at greater risk with a hemoglobin of 8.8 of experiencing a 12 13 fatal arrhythmia than any other postoperative 14 patient that has a hemoglobin of 8.8 but not the 15 same cardiac history? 16 Not the same cardiac history or Α. 17 normal? 18 Q. Normal. Α. Of course Mr. Edwards would be at 19 20 more risk. 21 Q. The telemetry unit is on the 6th floor at Huron Road Hospital? 22 23 At this point in time, we have a Α. 24 different number, but, yes, he was on the 6th 25 floor telemetry.

Page 68 Ο. If a patient is on telemetry, are 1 2 they literally hooked up with leads, so that there is a readout at the nurses' station? 3 Α. 4 Yes. 5 Q. Can you account for how a patient that's on telemetry, hooked up to leads with a 6 7 readout at the nurses' station, would be found 8 unresponsive? 9 MR. LENSON: Doctor, do you know? 10 Α. No, I don't know. I don't know if you know what the whole telemetry concept is. 11 12 MR. LENSON: He will learn that. You answer the question. 13 14 Q. I'm going to ask you another 15 question. What I want you -----16 MR. MISHKIND: Murray, please. 17 MR. LENSON: Howard, I want to make sure that he understands that he doesn't have to 18 go beyond what you ask him, and he doesn't, 19 20 that's it. 21 MR. MISHKIND: I don't want to play 22 games. 23 MR. LENSON: I don't want to either. 24 He is answering a question that's beyond what 25 I'm telling him as my client not to you asked.

Page 69 1 do that, just answer the question. 2 9. Doctor, stay with me. Explain to me 3 how a patient on telemetry would be found unresponsive by a nurse coming into the room as 4 5 opposed to information being up on the screen 6 available for the nurses at the nurses' station 7 ahead of time? 8 I can't explain. Α. Q. 9 Would you agree that the concept and 10 the way that the telemetry is set up is that 11 nurses should be aware of any change in the 12 heart rhythm on the monitors before a patient 13 advances to a state of being unresponsive? 14 MR. FARCHIONE: Objection. 15 Α. The monitors should register. 16 Q. And indicate that there is something 17 abnormal going on with the patient? 18 Α. Yes. 19 Q. And then what are the nurses supposed to do, from your understanding, once the monitor 20 21 shows an abnormal heart rhythm? 2.2 Α. Assess the patient. 23 Ο. And are they then supposed to contact an attending if there is a serious change in a 24 25 patient's hemodynamic status?

Page 70 1 Α. Relative to the assessment, there is 2 notification of attendings, residents. I'm not sure what the ascension in the surgical realm 3 4 is, but someone should get a call. 5 Q. Late on the 28th, early on the 29th 6 of January, who would the nurses have to report 7 to to notify about Mr. Edwards in terms of a change in his condition? Would it be you or 8 would it be Dr. D'Hue or someone else? 9 10 Α. It would probably be Dr. D'Hue or one of his agents, possibly the residency staff, the 11 resident staff. 12 Q. In terms of the quality of 13 14 Mr. Edwards' life had he survived, do you have 15 any opinion in terms of what his enjoyment of life would have been had he been discharged 16 17 following his surgery without experiencing a 18 fatal arrhythmia? 19 Α. No. 20 MR. LENSON: Objection. Speculation. 21 Q. Do you have an opinion as to whether 22 or not Mr. Edwards sustained a myocardial infarction the morning of the 29th or late on 23 24 the day of the 28th? 25 Α. No.

	Page 71
1	Q. You don't have an opinion one way or
2	another?
3	A. I haven't seen the autopsy.
4	Q. There is some reference to organized
5	and organizing acute myocardial infarction. Do
6	you have any way to tell me from what you know
7	at this point whether or not his clinical course
8	leading up to the time that he was found
9	unresponsive would be consistent with a
10	pathologic finding at the time of autopsy of
11	organizing myocardial infarction?
12	A. No, no evidence that would support
13	that.
14	Q. We don't have any rhythm strips over
15	a 12 hour period to show what his heart rhythm
16	was, correct, leading up to the time of his
17	death?
18	A. I think the last strip
19	MR. LENSON: The 28th.
20	Q. Before noon.
21	MR. LENSON: 11:24 or something.
22	Q. Do you know whether the telemetry
23	monitors were working properly on the floor on
24	the 28th?
25	A. I do not know.

Page 72 Q. Do you know whether the hospital 1 2 experienced in January of 2000 any staffing 3 shortages? I do not know. 4 Α. Ο. 5 Are you in a position at this point to say that Mr. Edwards was managed properly on 6 7 January 28th up to the time of his death? 8 MS. HESS: Objection. 9 MR. LENSON: Objection. 10 Α. I have no way of knowing that. Ι 11 didn't evaluate him that day. 12 Ο. So as to whether or not the care provided by the nurses, Dr. D'Hue, or any of the 13 14 residents was or was not appropriate, any 15 opinion? 16 MS. HESS: Objection. 17 Α. No. 18 0. I think in your interrogatories, you indicated that Mr. Edwards was, in your opinion, 19 not at fault. In other words, there is nothing 20 that you see that he did that caused or 21 2.2 contributed to his death. And I take it you still stand by that? 23 24 Α. Yes. 25 Q. After the 27th, is there anything
Page 73 1 that you recall that occurred on the 28th or up 2 to the 29th when he died that we have not talked 3 about? 4 Α. No. Q. 5 Did any nurses or anyone from the 6 hospital ever explain to you in any way, 7 generally or specifically, how it is that 8 Mr. Edwards was found unresponsive without any telemetry strips or indication of some problem 9 10 immediately prior to him coding? 11 Α. No. 12 You did not participate in the 0. attempt to resuscitate him; correct? 13 14 Α. No. 15 Q. Did you ever talk to anybody that was involved in the resuscitative efforts? 16 17 Α. No. Q. 18 Sort of a global statement, but I just want to find out at this time, other than 19 to the extent that there is any opinions that 20 21 you arrive at beyond what we have talked about, 22 have you told me in terms of the context of this man's hospitalization everything that you can 23 24 recall, either from the record or independently? 25 Α. Yes.

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1	MR. MISHKIND: I have nothing
2	further. Thanks.
3	EXAMINATION OF REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D.
4	BY MR. FARCHIONE:
5	Q. As you know, my name is Joe Farchione
6	and I represent the hospital in this case. A
7	couple questions.
8	You had indicated in answer to a
9	question that you had no opinion with regard to
10	the standard of care for the hospital staff or
11	for the other surgeons involved, and that's
12	because you were not there to clinically assess
13	that particular patient?
14	A. Correct.
15	Q. The clinical assessment, I take it,
16	is a very important part of evaluation of a
17	patient such as this in the postoperative
18	period?
19	A. Correct.
20	Q. Now, when you see patients like this
21	with residents, sometimes do the residents write
22	the note for you?
23	A. The resident writes a note relative
24	to their assessment, and usually it is customary
25	that the attending physician, when they evaluate

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Page 75 the patient, authenticates the documentation and 1 2 usually co-signs in some notation. 3 Ο. On the 28th, was there a note written by a cardiology resident? If you can take a 4 5 look at the progress section, please. Yes, there was. 6 Α. 7 0. The orders toward the bottom, what does that read? 8 9 Α. Consider transfusion to keep hematocrit greater than 30. 10 11 The rest of it reads what? Ο. 12 Α. Patient has CAD with increase --13 okay, consider transfusion to keep hematocrit 14 greater than 30. Patient has CAD, coronary 15 artery disease, with increased diuresis if transfused. 16 17 0. Was that something that you would 18 have been consulted on or aware of at that time? 19 Α. If, in fact, the patient was 20 transfused, and if I was involved with this by 21 my resident, that would have been my 22 recommendation, to diurese the patient. 23 MR. LENSON: The question is, were 24 you aware of this? 25 THE WITNESS: No, I wasn't.

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1	Q. Any disagreement with what is written
2	there by the cardiology resident?
3	A. No.
4	Q. Is that something that you would have
5	ordered had you been aware of the information
6	that we have been discussing for the past couple
7	hours?
8	MR. LENSON: Objection. You can
9	answer. It's speculative.
10	A. Again, this is not an order, this is
11	a consideration.
12	Q. But you would have recommended or put
13	out for consideration?
14	A. Consideration relative to hemodynamic
15	stability.
16	Q. And then it would have been up to the
17	attending service, Dr. D'Hue and his residents,
18	as to whether or not to implement the record?
19	A. To make that decision, yes.
20	MR. FARCHIONE: Thank you. That's
21	all.
22	MS. HESS: No questions
23	EXAMINATION OF REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D.
24	BY MR. MISHKIND:
25	Q. Do you know who the resident is that

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1	signed that January 28th cardiology note?
2	A. Yes. That's the same individual we
3	talked about here, Slyvia Labes.
4	MR. LENSON: We will read.
5	MR. MISHKIND: We will waive the
6	seven days.
7	
8	(Deposition concluded at 7:15 p.m.)
9	(Signature not waived; seven days waived.)
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1	AFFIDAVIT
2	I have read the foregoing transcript from
3	page 1 through 77 and note the following
4	corrections:
5	PAGE LINE REQUESTED CHANGE
6	
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17	
	REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D.
18	
	Subscribed and sworn to before me this
19	day of , 2002.
20	
21	Notary Public
22	
23	My commission expires .
24	
25	

	Page 79
1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	State of Ohio,
4	SS:
5	County of Cuyahoga.
б	
7	
8	I, Vivian L. Gordon, a Notary Public within
0	and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and
9	qualified, do hereby certify that the within named REGINALD P. DICKERSON, M.D. was by me
10	first duly sworn to testify to the truth, the
ΤŪ	whole truth and nothing but the truth in the
11	cause aforesaid; that the testimony as above set
	forth was by me reduced to stenotypy, afterwards
12	transcribed, and that the foregoing is a true
	and correct transcription of the testimony.
13	
	I do further certify that this deposition
14	was taken at the time and place specified and
	was completed without adjournment; that I am not
15	a relative or attorney for either party or
16	otherwise interested in the event of this
10	action. I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a
17	contract as defined in Civil Rule 28 (D).
18	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
	hand and affixed my seal of office at Cleveland,
19	Ohio, on this 23rd day of January, 2002.
20	
21	Vinian L. Gardon
22	Nuch in Jon as
	Vivian L. Gordon, Notary Public
23	Within and for the State of Ohio
24	My commission expires June 8, 2004.
25	

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