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The State of Ohio,)
 County of Lorain.) SS:
 IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 Joanne Scrivo, et al.,)
 Plaintiffs)
 vs.) Case No. 02CV130376
 EMH Regional Medical Center,) Hon. Mark A. Betleski
 et al.,)
 Defendants)
 * * *

Deposition of ITRI A. EREN, M.D., a
 witness herein, called by the Plaintiffs as upon
 Cross-Examination, taken before Diane L. Cieply,
 Registered Professional Reporter and a Notary Public
 within and for the State of Ohio, at the offices of
 Itri A. Eren, M.D., 1130 Tower Boulevard, Suite B,
 Lorain, Ohio, on Tuesday, August 20, 2002, at
 12:09 p.m.

* * *

CAMILLO & CLARK COURT REPORTERS
 589 W. BROAD STREET
 ELYRIA, OHIO 44035
 (440) 323-3381

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ALSO PRESENT:
 Jennifer Meecham
 * * *

(Curriculum vitae of Itri A. Eren, M.D., marked for
 the purpose of identification as Plaintiffs' Exhibit 1.)
 * * *

ITRI A. EREN, M.D.,
 being first duly sworn and/or affirmed,
 as hereinafter certified, was examined
 and testified as follows:
 CROSS-EXAMINATION OF ITRI A. EREN, M.D.

BY MR. BURNETT:
 Q Doctor, my name is John Burnett, I represent the
 Plaintiffs in this matter.
 Please tell us your full name.
 A Itri Eren, E-r-e-n.
 Q Your professional group currently?
 A Self-employed with Itri Eren, M.D., Incorporated.
 Q Was that your professional group as of July of the
 year 2000?
 A At that time I was with Dr. Ibrahim Eren, M.D.,
 Incorporated.
 Q That's your father?
 A Correct.
 Q Exhibit 1, I take it, sir, is your curriculum

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APPEARANCES:

On behalf of the Plaintiffs:
 Becker & Mishkind Co., L.P.A., by
 John W. Burnett, Esq.

On behalf of the Defendant, EMH Regional Medical
 Center:
 Reminger & Reminger, by
 Jeanne M. Mullin, Esq.

On behalf of the Defendants, Itri A. Eren, M.D. and
 Itri A. Eren, M.D., Inc.:
 Reminger & Reminger, by
 Michael D. Shroge, Esq.

On behalf of the Defendants, Craig Chappel, M.D. and
 Craig Chappel, M.D., Inc.:
 Reminger & Reminger, by
 P.J. Malnar, Esq. (Telephonically)

On behalf of the Defendants, William Scott Sheldon,
 D.O. and North Ohio Heart Center, D.O., F.A.C.C.:
 Reminger & Reminger, by
 Thomas B. Kilbane, Esq.

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1 vitae?
 2 A Correct.
 3 Q Do you understand that this is a question and
 4 answer session under oath?
 5 A Yes.
 6 Q You'll do me a favor and the court reporter a favor
 7 if you'll wait until I finish asking the question before
 8 you begin to answer it. That will serve two purposes,
 9 it will enable --
 10 (P.J. Malnar, Esq. joined the deposition telephonically.
 11 MR. SHROGE: Can you hear us okay, P.J.?
 12 MS. MALNAR: I can hear you okay.
 13 Thanks, Mike.
 14 MR. SHROGE: We just swore the Doctor in,
 15 his name, and his CV being current.
 16 Q I hope you'll wait until I finish asking the
 17 question before you respond. That will enable you to
 18 formulate an accurate response and it will enable the
 19 court reporter to type my question; is that fair?
 20 A Yes.
 21 Q Doctor, if you don't understand my question or I'm
 22 unclear, I hope you will tell me so, and then I will do
 23 my best to rephrase it; is that fair?
 24 A Yes.
 25 Q If you answer my question, I'm going to conclude

1 that you understood it and you're giving me your best
2 answer today; is that fair?
3 A Yes.
4 Q Do you have any publications, Doctor?
5 A No.
6 Q Have you ever done any medical-legal work?
7 A No.
8 Q That means reviewing a chart for a lawyer who calls
9 you to see if there was a deviation from the standard of
10 care, something along those lines?
11 A Well, actually, I may have done that once or twice.
12 Q How many years ago did you do that?
13 A It's been at least five, six, seven years.
14 Q Were you ever ultimately employed as an expert in
15 that case?
16 A I don't recall. I might have been, I don't
17 remember.
18 Q Do you recall whether you gave a deposition or not?
19 A I believe I might have.
20 Q Do you recall generally what the facts were, what
21 the issue was?
22 A Back then?
23 Q Yes.
24 A I don't remember.
25 Q Have you been a defendant in a lawsuit before other

1 than this case?
2 MR. SHROGE: Objection.
3 Q When your counsel objects --
4 MR. SHROGE: You can go ahead and answer.
5 I'll tell you when not to talk to John.
6 Q He'll jump in.
7 That you're aware of?
8 A I don't remember anything, no.
9 Q Was your prior professional corporation ever a
10 defendant in a lawsuit and your conduct in it was called
11 into question?
12 A No.
13 Q Aside from the deposition we talked about six or
14 seven or eight years ago, have you ever been deposed
15 before?
16 A I believe I have been.
17 Q Do you remember how long ago it was?
18 A Once again, it's been at least five, six, seven
19 years ago.
20 Q Do you remember why you were deposed?
21 A I don't remember.
22 Q So you got to sit around in a room like this with a
23 whole bunch of lawyers like this, right?
24 A (Indicated affirmatively.)
25 Q Tell me a little bit about when you started --

1 A Well, my memory is jogged. Actually, I was deposed
2 for a nursing home case. I was not involved in the
3 lawsuit, I was deposed as a witness.
4 Q All right. A fact witness?
5 A Correct.
6 Q As of July of 2000, what percentage of your
7 practice involved caring for nursing home patients?
8 A I would guess approximately 70 percent.
9 Q Tell me a little bit about the rest of your
10 practice as of July of 2000.
11 A The rest involves taking care of hospital patients
12 in an acute care setting and office patients.
13 Q All geriatric?
14 A Majority.
15 Q What's the age cutoff for geriatrics? I'm curious.
16 A Technically, 65.
17 Q Okay. This patient, Ms. Scrivo, had she been a
18 patient of yours prior to being sent to the nursing home
19 in this case?
20 A No.
21 Q In this case is -- this nursing home is Ohio
22 Extended Nursing Home, correct, Ohio Extended Care
23 Nursing Home?
24 A Correct.
25 Q What were you called, regarding your relationship

1 with Ohio Extended Care Nursing Home, back in July of
2 2000? Were you a staff physician, what were you?
3 A I was the medical director as well as the staff
4 physician.
5 Q Okay. I take it the care you provided Ms. Scrivo
6 was in your capacity as a staff physician?
7 A Correct.
8 Q Did you consider yourself acting as an agent or
9 employee of the nursing home itself when you provided
10 care to her?
11 MR. SHROGE: Objection.
12 A No.
13 Q Relative to your job at the nursing home as medical
14 director, tell me a little bit about the percentage of
15 your professional time spent acting as the medical
16 director and the percentage spent acting as a care
17 provider to patients?
18 A I would guess maybe 25 percent as the medical
19 director, the rest as staff physician for the patients.
20 Q Okay. Were you a medical director for any other
21 nursing homes at that point in time?
22 A Yes.
23 Q What other nursing homes?
24 A Avon Oaks Nursing Home.
25 Q Is it on your CV?

9

1 A Yes. Anchor Lodge Nursing Home, Amherst Manor
 2 Nursing Home, Autumn Aegis Nursing Home, Kingston of
 3 Vermilion Nursing Home, and the Community Health
 4 Partners Skilled Nursing Floor.
 5 Q Okay. So you were director at all these places
 6 back in July of 2000 and you still are right now?
 7 A Correct.
 8 Q Have you ever been director at a nursing home in
 9 your career where you were asked to leave?
 10 A Yes.
 11 Q What nursing home was that?
 12 A Oak Hills.
 13 Q When did this occur?
 14 A Fall of last year, fall of '01.
 15 Q Do you know why you were asked to leave?
 16 MR. SHROGE: Objection.
 17 A Because I represented too many other nursing homes.
 18 Q Was there any indication communicated to you by
 19 anyone that your performance as a director was below par
 20 at that nursing home?
 21 MR. SHROGE: Objection.
 22 A No.
 23 Q How was it that you first became aware that
 24 Ms. Scrivo was going to be -- well, did you consider her
 25 your patient while at the Extended Care facility?

10

1 A Yes.
 2 Q When did you learn that she was going to be your
 3 patient? Would that have been the date she was
 4 admitted?
 5 A I don't remember.
 6 Q What did you review in preparation for this
 7 deposition today?
 8 A I reviewed two of my admission notes, one at Ohio
 9 Extended Care and the other one at Anchor Lodge Nursing
 10 Home.
 11 Q So you provided care for her later at Anchor Lodge
 12 as well?
 13 A Correct.
 14 Q Do you know why she didn't go back to Ohio
 15 Extended Care?
 16 A No.
 17 Q When she arrived at Ohio Extended Care -- strike
 18 that.
 19 As of July of 2000, give me an idea of the
 20 percentage of your practice that involved caring for
 21 patients post heart catheterization and stent procedure?
 22 A I really can't give you a number.
 23 Q Okay. As of July of 2000, were you aware or did
 24 you have any information at all relative to whether or
 25 not a patient should be on Plavix following a

11

1 catheterization and stent procedure?
 2 A No, I didn't have any specific information to that
 3 regard.
 4 Q Do you have any information in that regard now as
 5 to whether or not the standard of care requires a
 6 patient to be on Plavix following heart catheterization
 7 and stent procedure?
 8 MR. SHROGE: Objection.
 9 A No, I do not.
 10 Q Okay. Generally, when you take over the care of a
 11 patient who has been sent to an extended care facility
 12 or a nursing home, do you speak to the referring
 13 physician?
 14 A No, I do not.
 15 Q Why not?
 16 A Because most of the information that I need is
 17 included with the transfer form.
 18 Q Okay. The transfer form, is that what's known as a
 19 goldenrod?
 20 A Correct.
 21 Q Do you have a duty and obligation to review the
 22 goldenrod and then call back to the facility
 23 transferring the patient to confirm any information on
 24 it?
 25 A No, I don't.

12

1 Q Have you ever done that?
 2 A Not that I can recall.
 3 Q Okay. Do you know of any other physicians who
 4 provide care for patients in nursing homes who do that?
 5 A No, I do not.
 6 Q Let's talk about medications prescribed. Where
 7 would you go to find that information, where would that
 8 be?
 9 A It's usually listed on the goldenrod.
 10 Q Have you looked at the goldenrod form in this case?
 11 A No --
 12 Q Let me show it to you.
 13 A -- other than when I saw it back then, other than
 14 when I reviewed it.
 15 MR. SHROGE: Is that the one we were
 16 talking about earlier?
 17 MR. BURNETT: That's the one we were
 18 talking about. Do you want to show it to him?
 19 MR. SHROGE: Sure.
 20 MR. BURNETT: I don't care if it's an
 21 Exhibit.
 22 MR. SHROGE: All right.
 23 Q Doctor, I'm directing your attention to the
 24 referral information form. Is this also called the
 25 goldenrod?

13

1 A This appears to be that, yes.

2 Q It says at the top, referring agency, EMH Regional

3 Medical Center, and below that I would direct your

4 attention to attending physician; do you see that?

5 A Yes, I do.

6 Q Okay. And it says NOHC, which I take it means

7 North Ohio Heart Center?

8 A Correct.

9 Q Then it says Dr. Mikhail?

10 A Correct.

11 MR. BURNETT: Let's go off the record for

12 a minute.

13 (Discussion held off the record.)

14 Q At the bottom of the page, I see a physician's

15 signature. Do you recognize that signature?

16 A I believe it looks like Mikhail.

17 Q Had you ever seen Dr. Mikhail's signature before?

18 A I've seen it in the past, yes.

19 Q You think it looks like it because of that?

20 A From my recollection, that's what it looks like.

21 Q So I take it then your procedure would have been to

22 review this referral information form and then draft

23 your initial, what do you call it, your summary?

24 A My admission history and physical.

25 Q So you relied on the referral information form and

14

1 you also talked to the patient, did you?

2 A Yes.

3 Q As of July of 2000, had you ever cared for a

4 patient in a nursing home that was post heart

5 catheterization and stent procedure?

6 A Yes, I did.

7 Q Do you recall ever seeing any of your prior

8 patients who had come out of that catheterization/stent

9 procedure receiving Plavix?

10 A Yes.

11 Q In July of 2000 when you reviewed the referral

12 information form, is it likely you noted in your own

13 mind that Plavix was not included as a prescription

14 under the physician's orders?

15 A I don't recall.

16 Q Did you ever see a patient who was referred to you

17 at an extended care facility post heart catheterization

18 and stent procedure who was not prescribed Plavix?

19 A Yes, I believe so.

20 Q That's aside from Ms. Scrivo?

21 A Yes.

22 Q I gather from talking to you right now, the fact

23 that Plavix wasn't on this physician's order sheet

24 didn't give you pause one way or the other?

25 A Not that I remember, I don't believe so.

15

1 Q Have you ever looked at information on a referral

2 information form that didn't make sense to you and that

3 caused you to call the referring physician?

4 A I have seen referral forms that I questioned some

5 of the information on there and pursued it further, not

6 necessarily calling the physician himself, but maybe

7 having the nursing staff look into it and get more

8 information regarding that.

9 Q Did that happen in this case?

10 A I don't believe so.

11 Q Would the fact that Plavix is not mentioned as one

12 of the physician's orders be something that would have

13 caused you to consider that route; that is, calling the

14 nurses, asking the nurses to look into it?

15 A I don't recall, but I don't believe -- I don't

16 believe so.

17 Q When did you first learn that Ms. Scrivo fell and

18 fractured her hip?

19 A I don't recall.

20 Q Tell me a little bit, if you would, about the

21 precautions that were taken with falls with this

22 patient, and feel free to refer to your chart.

23 A Okay. Reviewing my chart, I don't have anything

24 specific in regards to that, and I don't recall any

25 specific precautions that were taken.

16

1 Q I'm seeing information that -- let me back up. I

2 take it you don't have the nursing home notes in front

3 of you, do you?

4 MR. SHROGE: Off the record for a second.

5 (Discussion held off the record.)

6 Q Do you remember anything about this patient?

7 A I remember some generalities regarding her, yes.

8 Q Tell me what you remember, please.

9 A She was a pleasant lady. She was alert, she was

10 oriented. She didn't appear to be in any distress when

11 I met her. Other than that, I'm not sure if I really

12 recall anything specific.

13 Q Okay. I'm showing that, on your physician

14 admission orders, you indicate she's on Librium, 10

15 milligrams. Is there any other -- let me ask you this:

16 What impact would Librium have on her mental alertness

17 and balance?

18 A It may have anywhere from no bearing to maybe some

19 bearing, but hard to say.

20 Q What about any of the other medications listed

21 there, same question?

22 A The only medication that I would keep in mind would

23 be possibly Percocet, which is a narcotic pain

24 medication.

25 Q Was that given at a dose that would make it

17

1 dangerous for her to try to ambulate by herself?

2 A I don't recall which dose --

3 Q Let's see, doesn't it say so on your admission

4 orders?

5 A Well, in my -- on my form, my history and physical,

6 it just says Percocet prn. The dose is usually a

7 standard dose, it would be how often it was given would

8 be the main concern.

9 Q All right. I'm showing that -- I want you to

10 assume for a minute there's a bed alarm that was on the

11 bed due to two falls at the hospital in the last two

12 days, okay, if you'll assume that. Tell me what a bed

13 alarm was at this facility?

14 MR. SHROGE: Talking about at Ohio

15 Extended Care or at EMH?

16 MR. BURNETT: At Ohio Extended Care.

17 MR. SHROGE: Okay.

18 A There are different types of bed alarms. The most

19 common one is an alarm that sounds when a patient tries

20 to get up out of bed.

21 Q Okay. Is that likely the one that would have been

22 used on a patient like this?

23 A That's assuming you can rephrase that question in

24 regards to the patient at that time or the assumption

25 that she had fallen twice before?

18

1 Q I think, yes, with the assumption that she had

2 fallen twice before at the hospital prior to being sent

3 to the facility. Given this patient as you recall her

4 and what you see on the admission notes, is that likely

5 the type of alarm that would have been used?

6 A If they were going to use a bed alarm, that

7 probably would have been the most common one.

8 Q Okay. I note that there's references to call bells

9 being within reach. What's a call bell?

10 A It's a cord that's attached to an alarm that

11 notifies the nurses that the patient is in need of some

12 assistance.

13 Q Okay. Do you recall learning that this patient

14 fell at the hospital or at the Extended Care

15 facility?

16 A I don't recall the actual call, no.

17 Q Do you recall the fact of the fall, though,

18 learning of it eventually?

19 A I believe I was aware of that at that point.

20 Q Do you recall ever talking with any nurses or any

21 personnel at the facility as to the circumstances

22 surrounding the fall?

23 A I don't remember specifically other than I'm sure

24 when they called me to inform me of her fall I would

25 have inquired as to what happened.

19

1 Q Would you have likely made any notes of that

2 conversation?

3 A I did not make any notes at that time.

4 Q Okay. You made notes later?

5 A Well, reviewing my records from the Anchor Lodge

6 admission, I believe I made a statement where she,

7 "apparently experienced a fall while walking over to her

8 dresser resulting in a right hip fracture."

9 MR. BURNETT: May I see that?

10 MR. SHROGE: Yes. That's the one from

11 Anchor.

12 Q This doesn't appear to be the note following the

13 fall?

14 A No, this is when she was admitted to Anchor Lodge

15 Nursing Home.

16 Q Do you have a note following the fall that you

17 authored?

18 A No, that's what I'm making reference to.

19 Q I see, I'm sorry. I guess my question was: When

20 you learned that there had been a fall and you likely

21 talked to someone about the circumstances surrounding

22 the fall, did you make any notes on a piece of paper,

23 anything like that?

24 A No.

25 Q Is there a procedure in the nursing home or was

20

1 there after July of 2000 when one of the residents fell?

2 Was there a procedure that an evaluation would proceed

3 onsite or would the nurses ask the questions of the

4 patient and then decide whether any further care was

5 required?

6 That probably wasn't the best question I ever asked

7 in my life. A patient falls or a resident falls, nurse

8 helps them up. Resident says, I'm okay. Nurse leaves

9 the resident alone or does the nurse say, we're going to

10 get you evaluated? How does that work?

11 A Typically, almost all the homes, any incident such

12 as a fall you would get a full evaluation both onsite in

13 terms of clinical evaluation as well as the

14 circumstances regarding the fall.

15 Q Were incident reports routinely prepared when a

16 resident fell?

17 A Yes, they typically are.

18 Q Who prepares those reports?

19 A Typically, the nurse who was in charge at that

20 time.

21 Q Did you have a duty and an obligation as director

22 of the nursing home to review those reports?

23 MR. SHROGE: Objection.

24 A I review most incident reports.

25 Q Did you in this case?

21

1 A I don't recall.

2 Q But it's likely that an incident report was

3 prepared; is that correct?

4 A Probably.

5 Q Okay. In this case, I'm showing from the nursing

6 home notes that at 8:40 a.m. -- just assume this to be

7 true, that at 8:40 a.m. she was found sitting on the

8 floor and communicated to the nurses that she had

9 fallen --

10 MR. SHROGE: Do you have those?

11 MR. KILBANE: No. Do you?

12 MR. SHROGE: No.

13 Q -- it was not until after 5:00 p.m. that the woman

14 was transported to the emergency room at BMH to evaluate

15 her.

16 Assuming that to be accurate, was that within the

17 policies, procedures, and protocols at the hospital,

18 that lag time on a fall and then going for the

19 evaluation?

20 MS. MULLIN: I think you said at the

21 hospital.

22 MR. BURNETT: At the facility.

23 MR. SHROGE: I'm only going to object on

24 the record as it relates to the fact that the nursing

25 home records involving the Plaintiff have never been

22

1 produced to this defense counsel; to my knowledge, to

2 any of the defense counsel in this case.

3 Therefore, Dr. Eren has not had the

4 opportunity to review any of those records regarding

5 either the first admission to Ohio Extended Care or the

6 second to the Anchor facility.

7 With that in mind, obviously he can

8 answer the question, but I think the objection is clear.

9 Q Do you remember what the question was?

10 MR. SHROGE: Just to be clear on the

11 record, again, I know initial Interrogatories and

12 Requests for Discovery were properly propounded upon

13 Plaintiff requesting any and all documents regarding the

14 medical care and treatment provided to this Plaintiff

15 revolving around the issues alleged in the Complaint,

16 those would have included Ohio Extended Care; and,

17 therefore, prior to today, those documents have been

18 requested and not provided.

19 With that said, you can answer, Doctor.

20 A What was the question again?

21 Q Yes.

22 MR. SHROGE: I apologize.

23 MR. BURNETT: That's okay.

24 Q She's found sitting on the floor at 8:40,

25 communicates the fact that she fell -- that's in the

23

1 morning, and she's not transported to the emergency room

2 until 5:00.

3 Was that within the appropriate time frame for the

4 policies and procedures of getting someone evaluated

5 back in July of 2000?

6 A Each case is handled individually. My assumption

7 for that case would be the patient may not have

8 expressed any complaints at the time and the evaluation

9 by the nursing staff may not have revealed any

10 abnormalities at that time.

11 Q The chart you keep in your office, may I see it in

12 its entirety, please? Off the record.

13 (Discussion held off the record.)

14 Q Doctor, I'm handing you back your chart. You'll

15 have to take my word for this. I'm looking through the

16 chart of the nursing home, and I don't see that any call

17 was placed to you that day following the nurses

18 discovering the patient lying on the floor and finding

19 out she fell.

20 If you'll just assume that for a moment, did they

21 have an obligation to call you within a certain period

22 of time in your capacity either as a medical director or

23 in your capacity as the attending physician for this

24 patient and tell you what happened?

25 MR. SHROGE: Objection.

24

1 MS. MULLIN: Same objection as to

2 policies and procedures of the nursing staff at the

3 nursing home.

4 A It's the policy of that home and almost all the

5 homes that practically every incident and fall is

6 reported to the attending physician, so it's very likely

7 that they did call me and notify me.

8 Q I don't see it charted. Did they have a duty and

9 -- just assume it's not. Did they have a duty and

10 obligation to chart that that day prior to moving her to

11 the emergency room?

12 MR. SHROGE: Objection.

13 A I'm not sure of the question again.

14 Q Sure. I want you to assume that I'm not seeing

15 anything indicating in the records that the nurses gave

16 you a call prior to this patient being transported to

17 the emergency room at roughly 5:00 or 5:15 in the

18 afternoon.

19 Assuming that to be the case, did they have a

20 duty and an obligation to call you within a certain time

21 period when they learned that this patient had fallen?

22 A Right, typically they should have.

23 Q Within what time period; do you know?

24 A Usually all falls that have an immediate impact on

25 a patient are called right away. Sometimes, in

25

1 general, if a patient falls and there isn't any obvious
 2 injury, the call may be reported later in the day or in
 3 conjunction with some other calls.
 4 Q Okay. Did the nurses have a duty and an obligation
 5 at the facility to chart when they've called the
 6 attending physician to report that a resident has
 7 fallen?
 8 MS. MULLIN: Objection.
 9 MR. SHROGE: Same objection.
 10 A Typically, all calls should be documented.
 11 Q If you assume that there's no call documented to
 12 you on this day, is it more likely than not that one of
 13 the nurses at the facility never placed a call to you?
 14 MS. MULLIN: Objection.
 15 MR. SHROGE: Objection.
 16 A I don't know.
 17 Q Have you ever seen an incident in the past in which
 18 you know that a call has been made to you and you review
 19 the chart and you don't see it charted?
 20 A Yes.
 21 Q Would this be in the context of reporting a patient
 22 fall?
 23 A It can be with a fall, yes.
 24 Q To your knowledge, did you or anyone else generate
 25 any notes, memoranda, diary entries, anything regarding

26

1 this patient that is not part of your chart that you
 2 have before you?
 3 A No, I did not.
 4 Q Again, I'm including in that question the Extended
 5 Care facility chart. I know you don't know what's in
 6 there.
 7 From looking at your admit note, was there
 8 something about this patient that in your mind required
 9 a greater degree of vigilance on the part of the nursing
 10 staff to ensure that there would be no falls?
 11 A I don't recall any such instance.
 12 Q I know with this patient we have a bed alarm,
 13 right?
 14 A I don't remember that.
 15 Q Okay. But I think we can tell from looking at
 16 your -- isn't that in your note?
 17 A No, it's not in my note.
 18 Q I want you to assume that we have the bed alarm
 19 like we talked about earlier, okay?
 20 A Okay.
 21 Q What other steps were available to the nursing home
 22 as of July of 2000 relative to ensuring that a patient,
 23 as best they were able, would not fall? I mean, I know
 24 there were gates. Were there other things that you
 25 could have utilized to protect this woman or any other

27

1 patient from falling?
 2 MS. MULLIN: I guess I'm going to object.
 3 I know the nursing home is not represented here today,
 4 but I'm going to object on foundation.
 5 Q You can still answer.
 6 A It depends on the risk of the patient for falling,
 7 that usually determines to what extent a facility will
 8 monitor that patient against falling.
 9 Q Okay. Can you give me an idea relative to what you
 10 see in your admit note as to this patient's risk? Was
 11 it considered a low, moderate, high, what was it?
 12 A I don't recall making any references to her being a
 13 problem for a high risk for fall person -- patient.
 14 Q If you assume that she had two falls in the
 15 hospital previous to coming to you, should she have been
 16 a high risk for falls patient?
 17 A If a patient has a record of having fallen before,
 18 then that is something that is taken into consideration,
 19 yes.
 20 Q Okay. And given that she had two falls in the past
 21 and she was on Percocet, we don't know what dosage, how
 22 would you have quantified this risk, would it have been
 23 low, medium, high?
 24 A I would need more information regarding her
 25 previous falls to make that determination.

28

1 Q Do you see anything in your note relative to the
 2 previous falls?
 3 A No.
 4 Q When you draft your note, do you take a history
 5 from the patient?
 6 A Yes, I do.
 7 Q Is it more likely than not that you would have
 8 asked this patient whether she had fallen when she was
 9 at EMH prior to being transferred to this facility?
 10 A I don't recall asking her that question.
 11 Q Did you have a duty and an obligation to ask her
 12 that question as of July of 2000?
 13 MR. SHROGE: Objection.
 14 A I don't typically ask a patient that question,
 15 period.
 16 Q Does someone at the facility typically ask the
 17 patient that question?
 18 A Yes. There usually is a fall assessment made on
 19 all patients.
 20 Q Was -- well, you wouldn't know because you don't
 21 have the chart. When a fall assessment is made, is that
 22 something you consider?
 23 MR. SHROGE: Objection. What do you
 24 mean, John, consider?
 25 Q Is that something you consider in issuing any

1 orders for this patient?

2 A If I'm told that a patient is at high risk for
3 falling, then precautions are taken.

4 Q Okay. What precautions are taken for a high risk
5 for falling patient?

6 A It's reviewing the medications, examine the patient
7 in terms of her motor skills, reviewing her cognition,
8 her mentation, bed alarm is one possibility. It varies
9 from -- once again from patient to patient depending on
10 the situation.

11 Q Are the criteria for that assessment written down
12 anywhere for that nursing home, Ohio Extended Care?

13 A Most fall assessment forms are part of the chart.

14 Q Okay, I realize they're part of a chart. What I'm
15 saying, is there a separate document that would provide
16 guidance to someone in filling out the fall assessment?

17 A I'm not sure if I understand.

18 Q Okay. At some point in time someone makes the
19 decision that a patient is at a low, moderate, or high
20 risk for falls, right?

21 A Correct.

22 Q What I'm asking is: Number one, who makes that,
23 the ultimate decision, is it a nurse or is it you as the
24 attending physician?

25 A Usually a fall assessment sheet is filled out and

1 that determines whether the patient is at high, low, or
2 medium risk for fall.

3 Q And the assessment sheet is filled out by a nurse,
4 I take it, correct?

5 A Correct.

6 Q Does the nurse come to this conclusion himself or
7 herself or is this a conclusion that you make after
8 looking at the fall assessment form?

9 A Usually the fall assessment form is based on a
10 score, it indicates where she falls -- where the patient
11 falls into.

12 Q I got you, okay. Are there any other documents
13 that exist at the nursing home which would indicate and
14 give guidance to the nurses or yourself as to how to
15 assess a patient for being at high risk for falls?

16 A Not that I can remember.

17 Q I'm seeing an initial activity assessment and an
18 activity progress note. That's not the fall assessment,
19 is it?

20 A No.

21 Q It's something entirely different. Off the record.

22 (Discussion held off the record.)

23 Q I probably asked you this earlier: Did you talk to
24 the referring physician or the cardiologist in this
25 case?

1 A No, I did not.

2 Q If you had, is it likely you would have charted
3 that?

4 A I probably would have.

5 MR. BURNETT: Okay. That's all I have,
6 Doctor.

7 MR. SHROGE: Doctor, you have the right
8 to review the transcript of your deposition before it's
9 actually finalized or you can waive your right to read
10 it. I would advise you, I don't think it was complex,
11 I think you could waive.

12 THE WITNESS: Fine.

13 MR. SHROGE: He's going to waive.

14 (Deposition concluded; signature waived.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

2 The State of Ohio,)

3 County of Lorain.) SS:

4

5 I, Diane L. Cieply, Registered Professional
6 Reporter and Notary Public within and for The State of
7 Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby
8 certify that the within-named witness:

9 ITRI A. EREN, M.D.,

10 was by me duly sworn to testify the truth, the whole
11 truth, and nothing but the truth in the cause
12 aforesaid.

13 I do further certify that this deposition is a
14 true record of the testimony given by the witness.

15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand and affixed
16 my seal of office at Elyria, Ohio, this 22nd day of
17 August, 2002.

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Diane L. Cieply
Diane L. Cieply, R.P.R.

Notary Public, State of Ohio

589 W. Broad Street

Elyria, Ohio 44035

(440) 323-3381

My commission expires 11/19/02