1	SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
2	LAW DIVISION, BERGEN COUNTY
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6	STEVEN KUMKA, an Infant, by His :
7	Guardian ad Litem, WALLER KUMKA, :
8	and DEBRA KUMKA, et al., : Case Number
9	Plaintiffs, : BER-L-
10	v. : 000171-93
11	PEDIATRIC SPECIALISTS, P.A.,
12	et al.,
13	Defendants. :
14	x
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16	DEPOSITION OF RAOUL L. WEINTZEN, JR., M.D.
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19	Washington, D. C.
20	Friday, June 23, 1995
21	REPORTED BY:
22	MARYBETH PETERS

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Deposition of RAOUL L. WEINTZEN, JR., M.D.,
called for examination pursuant to notice of
deposition, on Friday, June 23, 1995, in Washington,
D. C. at Georgetown University Medical Center, 3800
Reservoir Road, N.W., CCC Building, Room 4406, at
2:26 p.m. before MARYBETH PETERS, a Notary Public
within and for the District of Columbia, when were
present on behalf of the respective parties:
MITCHELL MACKOWICZ, ESQ.
Blume, Vazquez, Goldfaden,
Berkowitz and Donnelly
Five Commerce Street
Newark, New Jersey 07102
On behalf of Plaintiffs.
ROWENA M. DURAN, ESQ.
Hurley & Basios
63G Morris Turnpike
Short Hills, New Jersey 07078
On behalf of Defendants Pediatric
Specialists, P.A. and

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PROCEEDINGS

2 | Whereupon,

RAOUL L. WEINTZEN

was called as a witness 'and, having first been duly sworn, was examined and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION

BY MS. DURAN:

Q Dr. Weintzen, my name is Rowena Duran. I am an attorney. I represent Dr. Harlow and Pediatric Specialists in a lawsuit that has been brought against them by Mr. and Mrs. Kumka on behalf of their child. You have been identified as an expert on behalf of the Kumkas and I'm here today to explore some of the opinions that you have expressed, Is it your intention to come to New Jersey to testify when this matter is tried?

A If I'm free to do so, yes.

Q Okay. Let me just -- have you ever had your deposition taken before?

A Yes.

Q Just a few ground rules. I'll be asking you a series of questions. If you do not understand

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any q estion that I ask you for any reason, tell me that you don't understand it and I'll rephrase it until you do. Okay?

A Fair enough.

Q Obviously I'm a lay person. I'm not a physician. If any of the questions that I ask don't make sense from a medical point of view, I assure you I have thick skin, tell me that, okay?

A All right.

Q If you don't know the answer, telling me you don't know is perfectly appropriate. Okay?

A Okay.

Q Don't guess at any answer.

A Fair enough.

Q You understand that the testimony that you are giving today is under oath and can be used at the time of trial?

A Right.

Q From time to time there may be an objection to a question I ask and if there is, I would ask that you stop, don't answer the question. We will discuss it on the record, and I'll either rephrase the

question or ask you to answer it as phrased. 1 A Okay. 2 If you need a question read back, you can 3 certainly do that as well. 4 Α Fair enough. 5 (Defendant's Exhibit 1 identified.) 6 BY MS. DURAN: 7 Let me give you what has been marked D-1 8 for identification, which has been represented to me 9 to be your curriculum vitae. First of all, is that 1.0 your curriculum vitae? 11 Α Yes, it is. 12 And is it up to date? 13 No, there are things on here that could be A 14 on here, that should be on here that aren't. 15 Okay. Do you have a more up-to-date CV? 16 17 Α I don't have a very up-to-date CV. I may have one more up to date than this. I could tell you 18 by looking at this a couple of things that would be 19 2.0 important that aren't on here, if you want to do that. 21

Why don't you tell me what needs to

Okay.

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be added to that?

A All right. Specifically licensure. I'm now licensed in Virginia and Maryland as well as D.C. Awards, I received the teacher of the year award again this year, so that would be another award. I don't know if it would be awards or -- let me just see what it is. Boards, in addition to the pediatric boards, I recently became board certified in pediatric infectious diseases.

Q While we are on that, because that was one of my questions, did you take the first board examination in November of 1994?

A Correct.

Q Was you passed both. Was it a one- or two-part exam?

 ${f A}$ It was a one. Fortunately, it was a one part exam.

Q And you passed it on the first time?

A Yes, with 98 percent. And then probably there are some articles that are not on this CV that could be. Let me just look at a couple of things. I wrote a monograph for the American Family Physicians

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Journal which is basically a general review of infectious diseases in children or some part of infectious diseases in children that I don't see on here.

- Q Has that been published?
- 6 A Yes.

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- 7 Q Okay. And what is the title of it?
 - A It is called "Pediatric Infectious Diseases
 I" and it covers, I believe, congenital infections.
- 10 I think it covers meningitis and a number of other
 11 common infectious disease topics of children.
- Q Can you -- who was the publisher?
 - A I think the American Family Physicians has its own publisher. It might be Lippencott. I'm not positive. It's probably two years ago or maybe three years ago. I'm not positive. I mean, as it relates today -- there is probably another couple abstracts and another couple articles but nothing that would be germane to this.
 - Q No additional publications that have to do with pneumococcal meningitis?
- A No, I don't believe so.

0 Okay. Are you the sole author of Pediatric 1 2 Infectious Diseases, the monograph that we were talking about? 3 Volume I, I am. 4 А 0 5 Okay. My partner did Volume 11. And as I sit 6 here, I really don't remember how we divided it up. 7 Is there an editor? 0 8 9 I'm sure there is. I can't remember right 10 now. 0 Okay. What is your partner's name who 11 wrote the other? 12 Α Charlotte Barbey, B-a-r-b-e-y, hyphen, 13 Morel, M-o-r-e-1. 14 15 Q Okay. Okay. Approximately how many times 16 have you had your deposition taken before? 17 I would say probably 30 or 40 times. 18 Can I just -- before we get off the CV, can you tell me -- and I have another copy if you want to 19 20 go through that copy. I believe under abstracts, I think it is article number 6 or abstract number 6, 21

was that the first or only abstract that deals with

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1	meningitis?
2	A I thing we are looking at or at least
3	the one that I am looking at says "Neutrophil
4	Responses"
5	Q Okay.
6	A and Age-dependent Susceptibility of the
7	New Born Infant to Bacterial Infection."
8	Q Does that have anything to do with
9.	meningitis?
10	A No. This is not really germane to
11	meningitis.
12	Q Okay. Are any of the abstracts germane to
13	meningitis?
14	A Number 10 would be germane to Hemophilus
15	meningitis and not pneumococcal meningitis.
16	Q Okay.
17	A And I think that is it for the abstracts.
18	Q And what about in the publications?
19	A Publications, number 1 would be of
20	particular relevance to the newborns with meningitis
21	and sepsis.

And you would consider Steven Kumka to fall

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outside of the newborn?

- A Absolutely, yeah.
- Q Okay. What would you classify his age group, just infants, under one?

A Right, and after that, toddler, but he was an infant. And number 11, publications, is germane to the case "Occult Bacteremia in Toxic Appearing Febrile Infants," which deals with children who have positive blood cultures and fever, basically. And I think that is probably it.

Q Okay. Of the 30 and 40 times that you have had your deposition taken, have they always been in the capacity as an expert witness in a malpractice matter?

A Yes.

Q Okay. And of the 30 or 40 times that you've had your deposition taken, can you give me a breakdown or a percentage in terms of how many times that you've testified on behalf of a plaintiff as opposed to a physician or other health care provider?

MR. MAKOWICZ: At a deposition?

] MS. DURAN: At depositions, yes. Ĺ THE WITNESS: Probably two-thirds defendant and one-third plaintiff. BY MS. DURAN: 4 Ε And how long have you been reviewing malpractice matters? Ε 5 Probably since 1980 or so. Ε And can you tell me -- are they always in the area of pediatric infectious diseases? 9 10 Almost always. I am sure I reviewed an Α 11 occasional general pediatric case. 12 (Discussion off the record.) 13 BY MS. DURAN: 14 Q How many cases approximately per year do 15 you review? 16 I probably now review a dozen or maybe 15 17 cases some years. 18 Okay. And would you say that the breakdown 0 of two-thirds on behalf of defendants and one third 19 20 on behalf of plaintiff is about the same in terms of 21 your review? 22 A Yes.

1 0 And can you tell me the number of jurisdictions that you have reviewed cases from? 2 I have tried to name them. 3 I've reviewed one, two cases, three cases in New Jersey total now. 4 5 I've reviewed cases in Florida, couple of cases in Kansas City, Missouri, some cases from this local 6 7 area here. 8 Washington; Virginia? 9 Right, and one case in Delaware, I think one case in New York, probably a couple of cases in 10 Pennsylvania, and that's it. 11 Okay. Are you affiliated with any 12 associations or organizations that locate doctors 13 14 on -- for attorneys or insurance companies? I don't know about affiliated, but there is 1 5 Α i6 a company in town that for the last -- probably 10 years has sent me an occasional case. 17 18 What is the name of that? 0 19 Forensic Medical Advisory Service, F-M-A-S. 20 And are they out of Silver Spring, 2 1 Maryland? 22

Yes.

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1	Q Do you have a contract with them?
2	A No.
3	Q Okay. Other than FMAS, is there any other
4	organization such as that
5	A No.
6	Q that you have reviewed cases for?
7	A Oh, in the past I did review one or two
8	cases for another company, and I can't remember the
9	name of it. And the man wanted to send me a lot of
10	cases and I wasn't interested, so I haven't talked to
11	him in a couple of years.
12	Q Have you testified in court?
13	A Yes.
14	Q And can you tell me what states or
15	jurisdictions that you've testified in?
16	A I've testified in court in D.C., in
17	probably Virginia and Maryland. The local sort of
18	jurisdictions. Florida. And once in Kansas or
19	Missouri, I forget. One of those two cities. Next
20	to next states.
21	Q And what percentage of your professional

time is devoted to reviewing and testifying in

H	malprastice cases?
7	A Woll, H mean H think all my prosesional
m	time is Druotru to taking carr of patirnts app woing
4	what I do here If H wip a ratio of what I wo here
M	warsus this work, it is probably 10 parcent of bat
9	no w all y wo
7	Q bll right What Do You charge for
ω	reviewing matters?
თ	A I charge 300 an hour for recorp review and
0	\$ 00 a hour for Deposition.
더 더	Q Anp what about for trial?
2	4 For a day of trial it wowlp br \$3000
L S	Q Anp for a half pay or is there a half
14	pay charse?
Н	A Is I coulp really get pone in a half pay, I
9	woulp Dr happy to po it in a half pax
7.7	Q Hawa you propr Day sund sor malpratice?
∞ Н	A No.
о П	Q Have you ever hap you are only
2 0	associated currently at Georgetown University; is
2 1	that cormpct?
22	A I mean, I-M on the Sull-time faculty, so f

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can't be on the full-time faculty of two people -two places as far as I know, so yes.

- Q Okay. Have your privileges to practice medicine ever been curtailed in any way?
- A No.
- Q Do you advertise your services as an expert anywhere?
 - A No.
- Q Okay. Your report has been marked, and I
 have a copy here, D-2, for identification. I assume
 you have a copy of that.
- 12 A Yes, I do.
- 13 Q It is a four-page report; correct?
- 14 A Right.
- Q Is this the only written report that you have authored in this case?
- 17 A The only formal report. I have handwritten 18 notes from the depositions and from the records, but 19 that's not really a report, I think.
- Q Okay. We will get to all of that.
- 21 A All right.
- Q I see that you have a page of notes. Well,

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let me just ask you this before we get to that, the only formal, written report is what has been marked **D-2** for identification; correct?

A I haven't seen the marking on it but I believe you are right. Yes.

Q Okay. Can you tell me what materials you reviewed before you wrote this report?

A I think I reviewed everything that is in front of me now which included the outpatient records of Dr. Harlow's office, the inpatient records at the time of the Hackensack Medical Center admission in January '89. The subsequent hospitalization for seizure disorder of December of that year, December '89.

O At Hackensack?

A Right. A rambling sort of series of outpatient follow-up records that dealt with the hearing impairment, psychological evaluation, neurologic evaluation after the discharge from Hackensack Hospital initially, the depositions of Mrs. Kumka, Mr. Kumka, Dr. Harlow, Dr. LaSalla. Let me see what else here. A two-page summary of events

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as submitted by Mr. Blume's office, and I'll thumb' through it for anything. I think that is basically it. Oh, the answers to interrogatories of Dr. Harlow, I believe, and I think that is essentially the material that I reviewed.

Q Okay. And did you review all of the material that you just listed before you wrote your July 25th, 1994 report?

A As best as I can remember, I did. I still have a question in my own mind whether I got the answers to the interrogatories later, but I think I got them at the same time.

Q Other than -- this would be Dr. Harlow's answers to interrogatories?

A Yes.

Q Other than possibly Dr. Harlow's answers to interrogatories, do you recall having received any other information since you wrote your report of July 25th?

A This morning or this afternoon I believe I did review the reports of two defendant experts,

Dr. Rapkin and Dr. --

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MR. MAKOWICZ: Minnefor?

THE WITNESS: -- Minnefor. They may have been sent to me after my report was issued. I don't have them in my pile if they were, and I don't reall remember having read them.

BY MS. DURAN:

Q Okay. So other than reviewing their reports this afternoon, you don't have any recollection of having reviewed them?

A That's right.

Q Okay. All right. Other than possibly Dr. Harlow's answers to interrogatories and the report of Dr. Rapkin and Dr. Minnefor, have you reviewed any other materials since you wrote your report of July 25th, 1994?

A No.

Q Okay. Was there anything in the reports of Dr. Rapkin and Dr. Minnefor that in any way changed or influenced your opinions in this case?

A No.

O Do you know Dr. Rapkin?

A No.

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1	Q Do you know Dr. Minnefor?
ĩ	A No.
3	Q Do you know Dr. Harold Raucher?
4	A No.
Ķ	Q Okay. Have you ever reviewed a report from
Е	Dr. Harold Raucher?
7	A Not to my recollection and certainly not
8	today.
9	Q Did you ever review a deposition transcript
10	of a Dr. Raucher?
11	A Again, not to my recollection.
12	Q Okay. You indicated and I just have to
13	go back to this for a second that you have
14	reviewed three cases in New Jersey?
15	A This is the third.
16	Q And are they all behalf of the Blume firm?
17	A No.
1 8	Q Have you ever reviewed a case for Mr. Blume
19	prior to this?
20	A No.
2 1	Q Have you ever reviewed a case for anyone in
22	the Blume, Vazquez firm?

1	A	No.
2	Q	Other than this one?
3	A	No.
4	Q	Can you tell me the names of the other
5	firms that	t have retained you in New Jersey?
6	A	It's only one other firm, and I think it's
7	Weis Golds	stein or Weis Goldman.
8		MR. MAKOWICZ: Wilentz Goldman, Wilentz
9	Goldman?	
1 0		THE WITNESS: I don't think it is Wilentz.
11	I thought	it was Weis.
12		BY MS. DURAN:
1 3	Q	Do you know the name of the attorney?
1 4	A	I thought it was Mr. Weis, but it has been
15	a number o	of years.
16	Q	Weisman?
17	A	Could be. I don't really remember.
1 8	Q	Okay. Okay. Do you know where they were
19	located, w	here their office was located?
20	A	I don't know. Somewhere in New Jersey.
2 1	Q	Can you tell me, did any of those other
22	cases have	anything to do with a meningitis case?

I Α I can recall only one of the two cases as I sit here now, and it was not meningitis. And the ĩ other case -- yes, the other case was a TB meningitis 4 case, in fact. 5 0 TB? Е Α Tuberculosis. 7 Okay. Have your depositions been taken in Ε any one of those cases? I believe in the TB meningitis for 9 Α certain. 10 11 0 Okay. And do you know who took your 12 deposition in that case? 13 A No. 14 Was it taken in Washington? 15 Α Yes. 16 Do you know if those cases are still pending? 17 I believe they are both settled. I know 18 Α the TB meningitis is settled, and I haven't heard 19 20 anything from anybody in years on the other case. 21 Okay. All right. You indicated that you 0

reviewed a two-page summary of facts from Mr. Blume's

1	office. Do you have 'that with you? I thought it was
2	in that pile.
2	f A I had it when I found it before, yeah,
4	right.
Ę	Q Let me see that.
€	MS. DURAN: Can I have this?
5	(Defendant's Exhibit 3 identified.)
E	BY MS. DURAN:
С	Q Did you rely on any o.f the information that
1 C	is contained in D-3 for identification when
11	formulating your opinions in this case?
12	A No, 1 did not.
13	(Defendant's Exhibit 2 identified.)
14	BY MS. DURAN:
15	Q Okay. Does the document that is marked D-2
16	contain all of your opinions relative to this matter?
17	A Actually there is one juncture that, as I
18	read through this recently, I realize that I didn't
19	address when I was writing this, and that is sort of
20	the juncture of Monday morning 10:00 phone call to
21	Dr. Harlow's office: what would have happened if the
22	baby had come in at that time rather than coming in

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at 1:00 three hours later, and would therapy have made any difference at that earlier juncture. And it was not something that I had in my mind when I was writing this report. So you are talking about the January 9th, 1990 -- 1989 telephone call to Dr. Harlow's office? Correct. Okay. What time -- what is your understanding of the time that the telephone call was made, that first telephone call? Α I believe around 10:00 in the morning. And do you know whether or not the mother was offered the opportunity to bring her child in immediately at that time? Again, two conflicting versions of the She says no, the post-dated medical record says come right in, so I don't know which is right, Q Okay. All right, Let me ask you this:

A All right.

is correct, okay --

Assuming that the mother had brought her child into

the office, regardless of whose version of the facts

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Q .. and that she had gotten there sometime after 10:15 a.m., do you have an opinion within a reasonable degree of medical probability as to whether or not Steven's outcome would have been any different?

MR. MAKOWICZ: Objection. At what point after 10:15 a.m.?

MS. DURAN: As soon as the mother could get there. I would assume by, let's say, a reasonable time when she could get there by 11:00 and be seen by a doctor.

BY MS. DURAN:

Q Do you have an opinion within a reasonable degree of medical probability as to whether or not Steven's outcome would have been any different?

A Well, I mean, this presupposes that they make a diagnosis of sepsis at that point or sepsis and maybe meningitis at that point and start therapy. That has to be an issue. In my Judgment, if the meningitis was as early as it seems to have been in its evolution when it was finally diagnosed -- I mean at 6:00 at night or 5:30 at night

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the meningitis as it was diagnosed Sunday night -I'm sorry Monday night at 6:00 was not there for a
very long period of time. He puts, I think, a couple
of hours as his time frame, and he may be right. I
think it is also possible that it was six hours.

Q Okay. Let me ask you this: Assuming that the mother had been seen in the morning shortly after the telephone call of 10:15 or 10:00 on January 9th, do you have an opinion as to whether or not the meningitis was diagnosable at that time?

A Well, A, he may not have had meningitis at the time.

Q Okay.

A So if it's not there, obviously you can't diagnose it.

O Okay.

A If he did have meningitis -- my judgment is this child was probably going to look pretty sick at the time of the 11:00 or 10:30 a.m. visit, so the diagnosis of sepsis or meningitis could have been made, yes.

Q Okay. If the meningitis wasn't present at

10:00 or 11:00 in the morning, would a diagnosis of viral syndrome have been within keeping of the standard of care?

A Again, assuming two other features of the presentation. A, that he looked really very well, was not sick appearing or toxic, and B, that his white count was not elevated then, yes, I can't criticize a physician for making a diagnosis of a viral syndrome in that context.

Q Okay. You indicate that in your report, that you refer to a child "appearing toxic"; would you tell me what you mean by that?

A I think there are a lot of ways in which toxicity can be appreciated with a young baby with fever and sepsis. Essentially a toxic child is a sick-appearing child, and the variables that are used to know whether or not a patient is toxic are, in fact, some of the variables that Mrs. Kumka has brought forth here.

One very significant variable is failure to respond to the noxious parts of an office visit such as blood taking, a suprapubic urine aspirate, an

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examination of the ears or rectal temperature taking -- things that make babies mad and angry because they are painful, should make babies mad and angry because of the pain. Failure to respond in the appropriate manner because of the pain is in an evidence of that this is a pretty sick baby.

Lack of interaction between the observer and the baby, the baby who has a vacant or blank stare, a baby who won't respond socially with a smile or brightening when seen by a stranger or proffered with a toy, failure to follow lights, failure to drink -- I mean, there is a whole bunch of things that tells a physician that this is a pretty sick baby. They are the commonest ones.

Q Is there anything contained in the office records of Dr. Harlow to indicate that this was a toxic-appearing child?

MR. MAKOWICZ: And you are speaking specifically only of the doctor's notes?

MS. DURAN: I thought my record -- my question was pretty clear about that.

MR. MAKOWICZ: Well, I just want to make

sure because the doctor knows that there are some disputes. I just want to make sure that I understand the question and the doctor understands that you are speaking only of the doctor's notes.

THE WITNESS: There are a couple of things in here that get around or to the periphery of this issue of toxicity. There is no specific, direct assessment of toxicity in any of the records, but the notation that the baby is sleepy, the added-on note of Dr. Harlow that the baby looked very washed out, and the notation of Dr. Harlow again in the added-on note that the baby was lethargic, are compatible with but not diagnostic of a baby who is toxic.

BY MS. DURAN:

Q Are those symptoms or those observations as contained in Dr. Harlow's office records also compatible with a child who has **a** viral syndrome?

A I think most of them are. This "very washed out" to me is the one that's -- the furthest reach to say is compatible with a viral syndrome. I don't think he was asked, Dr. Harlow, what he meant by that. I think he would have to explain a little

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bit more exactly what he meant by that but to say
that a baby is "very washed out" is getting very
close to saying this is a sick-looking baby.

Q Would a child that had had a fever for at
least a few days plus vomiting appear to be washed
out?

A He may.

Q Okay. And can that be as a result of a viral syndrome?

A Yes, if it's a -- a tough virus, especially if a baby is getting a little dehydrated, yes.

Q Okay. Would you agree that a pediatrician has a right to rely on his judgment in evaluating a sick child?

A I think, I think that is all we do. We use our experience and our judgment and the laboratory.

The issue that really has to be posed is, I mean, was the judgment a reasonable judgment.

Q But the judgment is certainly something that every doctor has to bring to bear in evaluating a situation; is that correct?

A That is true.

	Q Okay. Would you agree that a bacterial
4	meningitis can develop rapidly?
	A Yes.
4	Q Would you agree that a child can would
:	you agree that a bacterial meningitis can occur
E	A Maybe I could read your writing.
7	Q No. Actually I'm not reading it. That a
Е	bacterial meningitis can overwhelm a child or
С	infant's defense system?
10	A Yes.
11	Q And would you agree that that can happen
12	even in the absence of malpractice on the part of the
13	physician?
14	A Sure.
15	Q What are the clinical manifestations of
16	pneumococcal meningitis?
17	f A Specifically let's say in a baby who is
18	like seven months old or eight months old?
19	Q Yes, specifically.
20	f A The manifestations of pneumococcal
21	meningitis in that age group are rather broad.
22	Fever, irritability or lethargy or both, vomiting,

And a kernig or positive kernig or -- what 1 0 is that? 2 Brudzinski. Α 3 Brudzinski. 0 4 Α E-r-u-d-z-i-n-s-k-i, I think. 5 Okay. Were any of those manifest at the 0 6 7 office visit in the early afternoon of January 9th, 1989? a MR. MAKOWICZ: According to what? 9 MS. DURAN: According to the office 10 11 records. 12 MR. MAKOWICZ: Okay. According to the 13 records. Okay. THE WITNESS: Let me just look at each 14 record here just to get my mind straight. The 15 contemporaneously written record on the 9th doesn't 16 talk about stiff neck or Brudzinski or kernigs but 17 18 does mention that the anterior fontanelle was, I think, flat, based on my reading of Dr. Harlow's 19 20 subsequent dictation on when the baby was admitted to the hospital. The "AFOF" I think-means anterior.--21

fontanelle open and flat.

1 BY MS. DURAN: 2 Where are you looking at? 0 3 Α Dr. LaSalla's note right above "sleepy, AFOF" . 4 5 Okay. Okay. Q 6 MR. MAKOWICZ: Have you found it? 7 MS. DURAN: Okay. 8 THE WITNESS: Yes. But no Brudzinski, no kernigs, and no nuchal signs and no sense of toxicity 10 noted in the note. The post-dated note of Dr. Harlow, let me just read through it here, talks 11 about the fontanelle being flat and no nuchal 12 rigidity. And in fact, when the baby was admitted to 13 14 the hospital four hours or five hours later, still it did not have nuchal rigidity or, if I remember 15 16 correctly, still did not have a bulging fontanelle. 17 When you say "the post-dated note," Okay. you are talking about the note that Dr. Harlow made 18 when he came back from the hospital after having seen 19 20 this child? 21 Yes, a-note that-he says-in-his deposition----22 was written either that night or the same night of

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admission on the 9th on the next morning. 0 Okay. We are talking about that? Α Yes. 0 Okay. Α Right. So is there any indication in the record that this child at the office visit in the early 1 afternoon of July -- January 9th had a bulging (fontanelle? 1(Α No. 1: Or stiff neck or nuchal rigidity? 12 Α No. 13 0 Or a kernig or Brudzinski sign? 14 Α They are not -- they are not mentioned 15 positively or negatively in either of these notes. 16 Well, the stiff neck certainly is mentioned 17 in that note? 18 Yes. A stiff neck is different, however, Α 19 than a Brudzinski or kernig. 20 Okay. Well, then, let me just take them 21 one at a time.

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Fine.

Q There is no indication in the office record
of a bulging fontanelle?
A Correct.
Q There is no indication of a stiff neck?
A Correct.
Q Okay. And it's your testimony that there
is no indication that nobody that there was not a
kernig or a Brudzinski sign?
MR. MAKOWICZ: Objection to the form. It
was a double negative question.
THE WITNESS: If I understand your
question, I don't see anywhere in the record this
word "Brudzinski" or "the kernigs." They may have
been done, but it is not noted positively or
negatively.
BY MS. DURAN:
Q From anywhere else in your review, is there
any indication of any of the materials that you
reviewed in this matter that at the time of the
office visit on January 9th that this child had a
bulging-fontanelle-or-stiff-neck-?
A No.

ו	Q Would you agree with those are two of the
2	signs that a pediatrician would rely upon in
2	entertaining or reaching a diagnosis of bacterial
4	meningitis?
5	A I think he would rely in part upon those
Е	and would be overruled should a baby look sick or
7	toxic. Even in the absence of those features, the
8	baby would be a subject for an evaluation for
9	meningitis.
1 C	Q Okay. I don't think I asked you that. My
11	question was would you agree that the clinical signs
12	of a bulging fontanelle or the nuchal rigidity are
13	two of the signs upon which a pediatrician would rely
14	in entertaining or making a diagnosis of bacterial
15	meningitis?
16	MR. MAKOWICZ: Objection. I think that was
17	the question that you asked, and I think that the
18	doctor's answer was responsive,
19	MS. DURAN: I disagree.
2 0	MR. MAKOWICZ: He already answered it, and
21	I think that he answered responsive to -it

THE WITNESS: Maybe I'll explain it a

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little bit. I think I used words "rely in part.
" BY MS. DURAN:

Q Well, okay.

A In the sense that -- and you can ask any more questions -- but in the sense that for bacterial meningitis in a young infant, those two signs are not very sensitive or very specific. So, yes, one does rely to some degree on those signs, but the absence of them doesn't rule out meningitis.

Q Okay. I didn't -- I don't believe my question, in all fairness, asked you if those were the only two symptoms or signs. My question is are those two signs upon which a physician may rely in entertaining a diagnosis of bacterial meningitis?

MR. MAKOWICZ: Same objection. He already answered the question. You are asking him and you are trying to press him into a yes or no answer. I think by the context of the doctor's answer --

MR. DURAN: Are you objecting to the form?

MR. MAKOWICZ: Yeah, yeah, I am objecting

to the form because you've already asked -- well, I'm

not even objecting to the form. You asked it twice,

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and he alread, answered it tyice. You want to press 1 2 him into a yes or no. By the very context of his 3 answer, he can't give you a yes or no. 4 MS. DURAN: I disagree. BY MS. DURAN: 5 Q 6 Can you answer my question? You want to 7 have it read back? I think I remember your question. I can't 8 9 answer the question yes or no. 0 1.0 Okay. I can only answer they are two of the signs 11 Α 12 that a physician does, in part, rely on, 13 0 Okay. Would you agree that Steven's 14 presentation at Dr. Harlow's office in the early 15 afternoon of January 9th were basically nonspecific 16 physical findings? 17 Again, with the caveat that there is no direct notation about the level of toxicity of 18 this baby. 19 20 Would you agree that the white blood cell 2 1 count was normal --

Yes.

Mrs. Kumka.

-- as it was taken in the early afternoon] 0 of January 9th? 3 Are you going to object? MR. MAKOWICZ: No. 4 L THE WITNESS: Yes. We can answer that one Ε yes or no. BY MS. DURAN: Ε Was the urine culture also -- T 9 think it was a urine culture that was taken, yes; was 10 that normal? 11 Well, the urine culture wasn't ready that day, but the urinalysis was okay. But the urine 12 13 culture probably wasn't back until the next day. 14 0 But the urine culture, whenever it came 15 back, was negative; correct? 16 I believe you are right. 17 Your report that has been marked D-2 for 18 identification, would it be fair -- right now I would 19 like to focus just on the events that led up to the 20 office visit on January 9th; namely, the telephone calls between Dr. Harlow's office staff and 21

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1 A Okay.

Q Just restricting it to those telephone calls. Do I understand your report to indicate that if the mother's version of those telephone calls is accurate, then is it your opinion that Dr. Harlow and his office staff deviated from the accepted standards of medical care?

A That's correct.

Q Do I also take it that if the office staff's recordation of what occurred during those telephone calls is accurate, then your opinion is that there is no deviation from accepted standards of medical care within that time frame?

A Certainly for the telephone calls that are noted in the record. You have this one on Sunday that is not noted on the record or might have been one in that is not noted in record.

Q Okay. But let's put the Sunday telephone call aside.

A Right.

Q And I'll get to that in a second. If the recollection of the nurses as recorded in

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pediatricians on call, would you have an opinion as to whether or not Pediatric Specialists deviated in that instance? MR. MAKOWICZ: And you are -- let me just make sure for the purposes of the record, you are focusing solely on whether would it have been deviation not to do something if they didn't get the message on Sunday and you are confining it to that particular point; correct? MS. DURAN: I have no idea what you just objected to, in all due respect. Because if they didn't know about the call, how could they do anything? MR. MAKOWICZ: Well, that was your question. Your question is assuming that they didn't get the message, they didn't do anything wrong. That's exactly your question.

MS, DURAN: Okay. Let me re

MS, DURAN: Okay. Let me rephrase the question.

MR. MAKOWICZ: Okay.

BY MS. DURAN:

Q Let me rephrase the question. Okay.

1	Talking about this alleged telephone call to the
2	answering service, if the answering service never
3	relayed that information to either Dr. Harlow or one
4	of the other covering pediatricians, do you have an
5	opinion as to whether they deviated from the accepted
6	standards of care?
7	MR. MAKOWICZ: As to acting upon the Sunday
8	call, as opposed to other deviations the doctor notes
9	in his report.
10	MS. DURAN: I'm just talking about the
11	Sunday telephone call.
12	MR. MAKOWICZ: Okay. That's all I'm
13	doing. I'm making it clear for the record. He notes
14	about five different things in his report
15	MS. DURAN: I think it <i>is</i> very clear.
16	
	MR. MAKOWICZ: on different days, and
17	MR. MAKOWICZ: on different days, and now you are talking about the Sunday telephone call
17	_
	now you are talking about the Sunday telephone call
18	now you are talking about the Sunday telephone call only; correct? That's all 1 want to know.
18 19	now you are talking about the Sunday telephone call only; correct? That's all 1 want to know. MS. DURAN: I think it is very clear that

1	f A No. I heard it three times. I thin: I
2	know it. The only scenario under which I could see
2	Dr. Harlow's office being somehow responsible for
4	that would be if it were a pattern of repetitive
5	just use a word that comes to mind malpractice on
6	the part of the answering service. If they were
7	repetitively, frequently, chronically not getting
8	messages, then he would need to solve that problem by
9	firing them and getting somebody else or rectifying
10	the problem so that he got his messages. Assuming
11	that wasn't the case, if he didn't get the message,
12	it is not his fault. It is the answering service's
13	fault.
14	Q Okay. And do you have an answering
15	service?
16	A Yes.
17	Q Okay. And has it ever occurred where you
18	have, for some reason, not gotten a message from
19	them?
20	MR. MAKOWICZ: Just note my objection on
21	the relevance.

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THE WITNESS: I'm sure it has happened.

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Absolutely it has happened.

BY MS. DURAN:

Q And from anything that you have reviewed in this case, do you see any evidence that there was a repetitive neglect on the part of the answering service with relaying messages to pediatric specialities?

A I don't recall any line of questioning when Dr. Harlow was deposed that even touched on that subject. It may be there and I just didn't notice it, but I think the record is kind of silent on that issue. So the answer would be no, it has not been explored.

Q Okay. Well, I'm going to ask you to assume that Dr. Harlow -- my recollection is that Dr. Harlow was questioned about it and he indicated that it may have happened on an occasion or two, but it was not a repetitive problem with the answering service.

Assuming that to be true, do you have any criticism of Pediatric Specialists in regard to this Sunday telephone call?

A Then my answer would be no, I have no

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criticism.

- Q Did you also see anything in the record to indicate that the mother had made repeated telephone calls on Sunday?
 - A I saw nothing in the record about that.
- Q Okay. Am I also -- referring now specifically to the office visit of January 9th of 1989.
 - A Uh-huh.
- Q Is it my understanding that the mother's recollection or allegations as to what occurred during that office visit are to be believed, then Dr. Harlow deviated -- it is your opinion that Dr. Harlow deviated from accepted standards?
 - A Right.
- Q Is it your opinion that anybody else deviated from accepted standards of medical care at Pediatric Specialists?
- A Well, assuming Dr. LaSalle noted the same things as Dr. Harlow did, then she would have deviated also. Namely, if she was in the environment when this -- the suprapubic tap was done and noted

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the baby not to wince or cry except just to moan a little bit, or if she was around when the blood was obtained and the baby didn't -- didn't cry, then that would be evidences of a very sick baby and she should have acted on it.

And so that I also understand your report, assuming that the office records are accurate and the child was fussy or evidenced reaction to the noxious portions of the exam as you indicated, then is it your opinion that there was no deviation during the office visit; is that correct?

MR. MAKOWICZ: Just note my objection. I don't think there was anything in the record about that. Maybe you want to ask him; you are asking him to assume something that I don't think is in the record. You haven't established there was anything in the record about fussiness or that he reacted to the noxious --

MS. DURAN: Could I have my question read back?

MR. MAKOWICZ: Procedure's being performed (The reporter read the record as requested.)

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BY MS. DURAN:

Q Okay. Can you answer that question with his objection?

A Again, assuming that the baby was not a toxic-appearing, sick-appearing baby, assuming that the very washed out description that Dr. Harlow has isn't really the description of a toxic baby, and that the sleepiness that is noted in the record isn't part of that description of a toxic baby, then yes, I would say what they did was as much as anybody can do.

Q Okay.

A I just want to put on the record, doctors don't have a crystal ball; they really don't. And there are cases of kids with meningitis who don't look sick enough yet to know that they have meningitis. There are other kids who have meningitis and they look sick enough and they should be subject to an evaluation. And that's what we are trying to determine in this record which doesn't have each and every feature of what we would like to look at to make a judgment one way for sure.

night.

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0 Okay. Assuming that at -- I think, I think the testimony is fairly consistent that the office visit that is recorded occurred sometime around 1:00 p.m.; correct? 5 Α Yes. Okay. And assuming that Steven had been 6 admitted to Hackensack Medical Center right after this office visit at 1:00 p.m. or approximately 1:00 8 p.m., do you have an opinion within a reasonable degree of medical probability as to whether his 10 11 neurological outcome would have been any different? I have no opinion as to whether his 12 neurological -- I can't make any judgment as to 1.3 whether it would be better or not better. I just 14 don't think there would have been enough time, 15 assuming that meningitis was present, to make a 16 significant difference. 17 18 Previously you and I discussed if he 19 had been seen at 11:00 or 10:30 --20 Right. 21 -- in the morning,—and I believe you... 22 indicated at that time had he been immediately

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hospitalized that -- well, let me ask yo again because I don't remember specifically what you said.

A Right.

Q Had he been hospitalized at around 10:30 or 11:00 or 11:30 in the morning, do you have an opinion as to whether his neurological outcome would have been any different?

A Yes.

Okay. And what is that opinion?

A I think there would have been some substantial benefit or would have been some substantial benefit to his neurologic outcome to have been treated at that juncture rather than later on in the afternoon.

Q Okay. Could you quantify the -- can you quantify in terms of percentage what the difference in his neurological outcome would have been?

A Well, I think -- no, I don't know that I can in specific ways quantify it in percentages.

There are two extremes in my judgment. One, he may not have had meningitis. Dr. Rapkin finds that he probably didn't have meningitis at 10:00 in the

1	morning, in which case therapy would have aborted his
2	meningitis, and he would have been normal today. I
3	don't have quite as much confidence as Dr. Rapkin
4	that he didn't have meningitis at that juncture, but
5	I do believe that therapy begun at 11:00 for very
6	early meningitis would have given him some, some
7	benefit. I can't I wish I could quantitate it,
8	but I don't know anybody who can at that point.
9	Q Okay. I'd as'ked you in terms of
10	percentages. Can you quantify it for me in any way
11	other than percentage?
12	A No.
13	Q Okay. Would you agree that Steven seemed
14	to be his defense system seemed to be overwhelmed,
15	by this meningitis?
16	MR, MAKOWICZ: At what point?
17	BY MS. DURAN:
18	Q During the time that he was hospitalized at
19	Hackensack.
20	A Yes. I think when he got to Hackensack he
21	had a very aggressive pneumococcal meningitis;

In a child that is later proved to have an

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aggressive form of pneumococcal meningitis, even in the event of earlier diagnosis or treatment, can the outcome still be the same?

A It can be, yes.

Q Can you give me a minute. I may be just about done.

(Pause.)

You obviously treat children with meningitis -- or infants with meningitis?

A Correct.

Q Do you restrict your practice to pediatric infectious diseases?

A No, not entirely. Probably 5 percent, or maybe a little more now that my patients have gotten older than the 18 year old cut off that used to be in a way, anyway -- defined to be the limits of pediatrics, So I see teenagers, I see young adults with various problems.

Q Okay. Of the children that you have treated in the last five years that have been diagnosed with bacterial meningitis, has the diagnosis already been made at the time that you

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first see them?

A Something -- the majority of the times, yes. There have been cases that I have been asked to see early, and I've made the diagnosis.

- Q And generally, then, when you are seeing or following a child -- or let's keep it to an infant with bacterial meningitis, you are called in on a consultant basis once the diagnosis has been made?
 - A Generally speaking, that's true.
- Q Would you agree that seizure was the first clinical manifestation of meningitis in this child?
- A Again, if we ignore the potential for him having been rather toxic and non-responsive to things that we've already talked about, I would say the seizure was probably the first clear-cut sign of meningitis that we had.
- Q Okay. We have talked about -- well, let me ask you in a different way. Do all of your opinions regarding deviations from accepted standards of medical care depend upon which version of facts is to be accepted as credible?

MR. MAKOWICZ: Exclusively?

1	MR. DURAN: Yes.
2	MR. MAKOWICZ: Meaning setting up a
3	dichotomy. I mean, that seems to be your question.
4	BY MS. DURAN:
5	Q Well, let me ask you, do you understand my
6	question?
7	A No, I'm really confused, mostly because of
a	the objection. I kind of
9	Q Okay. You have in your report discussed a
10	number of deviations from accepted standards of
11	medical care, and I think I mean, in all fairness,
12	I mean, you've gone out of your way in your report <i>to</i>
13	indicate that it would depend on which version of
14	facts is deemed to be credible; is that correct?
15	A Yes.
16	Q All of the opinions that you have regarding
17	whether or not the standard of care was complied with
18	or deviated from, do they all depend upon whether,
19	whether the mother's version of the facts is deemed
20	to be credible as opposed to the physician's version
21	of the facts?

MR. MAKOWICZ: My question is each and

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every fact the mother says?

MS. DURAN: No, not each and every, just -- MR. MAKOWICZ: As opposed to each and every

one of the physicians'? That's my problem with the

5 question.

MR. DURAN: Well, I'm not going to sit here and list each and every other fact, otherwise I'd have to read the deposition transcript.

MR. MAKOWICZ: I'm not suggesting that you should, but the way that your question is asked, it sounds to me like you are saying do all of your opinions rely upon whether the mother is telling the truth absolutely down the line, is absolutely accurate in every single thing that she says and the doctors are absolutely inaccurate in everything that they say. That's how the question sounds to me. I don't know if that is what you mean. If it is, I just want that to be clear.

BY MS. DURAN:

Q Well, Doctor, in your report of July 25th, 1994, you have gone through and listed basically in chronological order the events as alleged by the

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mother and then indicated the events as they are recounted in the medical records by the nurses and by the physicians.

A That is true.

Q Okay. Taking the facts that you have relied upon in your report and that you have cited in your report, do all of your opinions as to whether or not the standard of care was comported with or deviated from depend on whether the mother's recantation of the facts as you have cited in your report are accurate versus the physicians' and nurses' recantation of the facts?

MR. MAKOWICZ: Same objection. You can answer the question if you can.

THE WITNESS: As well as I understand your question, the answer is yes. I certainly can't decide between the two sides,

BY MS. DURAN:

Q Okay.

A But you give me the, the facts that are on one side or the other, I can tell you whether what was done was right, medically speaking.

1	Q And you don't see your role here as one to
2	decide who is telling the truth or not; is that
3	correct?
4	A No, absolutely not.
5	MS. DURAN: I have nothing further. Thank
6	you.
7	MR. MAKOWICZ: I just have one question.
8	EXAMINATION
9	BY MR. MAKOWICZ:
10	Q You were asked about the phone call on
11	Sunday and you were given a hypothetical: If the
12	doctor did not receive a message from the answering
13	service, would he have been responsible. And your
14	response to that question was absolutely not. Would
15	that particular question, this Sunday phone call, in
16	any way affect the opinions that you've expressed in
17	your report about any deviations that may have
18	occurred on Saturday or Monday?
19	A No.
20	MR. MAKOWICZ: That's all I have. Thank
21	you.
22	MR. DURAN: That's it.

(Whereupon, at 3:32 p.m., the deposition was concluded.)

RAOUL L. WEINTZEN

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ACE-FEDERAL REPORTERS, INC.

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