



November 19, 2024

VIA ECF

Honorable Thomas I. Vanaskie
Special Master
Stevens & Lee
1500 Market Street, East Tower, Suite 1800
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103-7360

**Re: *In re Valsartan, Losartan, and Irbesartan Liability Litigation*,
Case No. 1:19-md-02875-RBK (D.N.J.)**

Dear Judge Vanaskie:

Please accept this letter on behalf of the Plaintiffs with regard to the one disputed issue on the pre-trial schedule for the Gaston-Roberts trial, and other personal injury cases to be worked up for trial.

In accordance with customary practice - and the only fair, reasonable, and efficient manner to proceed - Defendants should submit their expert reports before Plaintiff's experts are deposed, and Plaintiffs' experts should only be deposed one time. As set forth herein, this is how the parties have proceeded in the prior rounds of expert discovery in this litigation, including for the general causation experts. This manner of proceeding ensures that the Plaintiffs' experts will be provided the defense experts' opinions and theories before being deposed, which will allow the Plaintiff experts to properly prepare to be deposed, and to be questioned on and comment on the defense expert opinions during the depositions of the Plaintiffs' experts. This will also allow the Defendants to fully depose the Plaintiffs' experts in one deposition.

The alternative requested by the Defendants would create easily avoided inefficiencies and unfairness, setting up a scenario of deposition by ambush. First, if the Plaintiff experts are deposed

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before seeing the reports of the defense experts, and are then provided the defense reports, the Plaintiff experts will not know what the defense's position is and thus will be unable to thoroughly or fairly prepare to be deposed. Moreover, they will not be able to testify to what they agree or disagree with, and why. This would be both unfair and inefficient. Second, Defendants will not have the opportunity to depose the Plaintiff experts on their views of the defense reports, since the Plaintiff experts will already have been deposed and cannot reasonably be required to be deposed a second time. This is why the customary practice is the alternating exchange of expert reports, followed by the depositions of the experts. In fact, in November of 2022, current/then new counsel for ZHP requested that Plaintiffs produce their experts for depositions before production of the Defendants' expert reports, Plaintiffs refused based on the schedules set in this litigation to that point, and ZHP's counsel did not raise that position again.

Accordingly, the expert discovery has been conducted in this litigation in line with Plaintiffs' proposal:

Valsartan Case Management Order	Deadline for Plaintiffs' Expert Reports	Deadline for Defendants' Expert Reports	Deadline to Depose Plaintiffs' Experts	Deadline to Depose Defendants' Experts
CMO #22 (Dkt. 726)	May 3, 2021	Jun. 1, 2021	Jul. 1, 2021	Aug. 2, 2021
CMO #23 (Dkt. 863)	Jul. 6, 2021	Aug. 2, 2021	Sept. 1, 2021	Oct. 4, 2021
CMO #28 (Dkt. 2131)	Sept. 16, 2022	Oct. 18, 2022	Nov. 29, 2022	Nov. 29, 2022
CMO #29 (Dkt. 2154)	Oct. 31, 2022	Dec. 19, 2022	Jan. 31, 2023	Jan. 31, 2023
CMO #30 (Dkt. 2190)	Jan. 20, 2023	Mar. 10, 2023	Apr. 10, 2023	Apr. 10, 2023

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The same holds true for other MDLs. For example:

Other MDL Orders	Deadline for Plaintiffs' Expert Reports	Deadline for Defendants' Expert Reports	Deadline to Depose Plaintiffs' Experts	Deadline to Depose Defendants' Experts
RoundUp PTO 3 (Case 3:16-md-02741-VC, Dkt. 47)	May 1, 2017	Jun. 1, 2017	Jul. 21, 2017	Jul. 21, 2017
RoundUp PTO 24 (Case 3:16-md-02741-VC, Dkt Nos. 317, 320)	Jun. 30, 2017	Jul. 31, 2017	Sept. 22, 2017	Sept. 22, 2017
Zantac PTO 65 (Case No. 20-md-2924)	Jan. 24, 2022	Mar. 7, 2022	May 31, 2022	May 31, 2022
Bard Hernia Mesh (Case No. 2:18-md-2846-EAS-KAJ, Dkt. 801)	Nov. 30, 2023	Dec. 14, 2023	Jan. 10, 2024	Jan. 10, 2024
CPAP Scheduling Order (Case No. 21-mc-1230-JFC, Dkt. 2355)	May 30, 2024	Jul. 30, 2024	Oct. 30, 2024	Oct. 30, 2024
Covidien Hernia Mesh (Case No. 1:22-md-3029-PBS, Dkt. 292)	Dec. 23, 2024	Feb. 3, 2025	May 28, 2025	May 28, 2025

These examples, which are also consistent with how the parties proceeded in the Benicar and Pelvic Mesh MDL's, are illustrative of the customary practice in MDL's and in general tort litigation. The expert discovery for the upcoming personal injury trials should follow the customary practice here.

Thank you for your courtesies and consideration.

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Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DAN', is positioned above a horizontal line.

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cc: All Counsel (via CM/ECF)