

Case Nos. 85525 & 85656

In the Supreme Court of Nevada

UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE COMPANY;
UNITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC.; UMR, INC.;
SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
INC.; and HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA, INC.,

Appellants,

vs.

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA),
LTD.; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-MANDAVIA,
P.C.; and CRUM STEFANKO AND JONES, LTD.,

Respondents.

Electronically Filed
Apr 19 2023 12:27 PM
Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of Supreme Court

Case No. 85525

UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE COMPANY;
UNITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC.; UMR, INC.;
SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY,
INC.; and HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA, INC.,

Petitioners,

vs.

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of the State
of Nevada, in and for the County of Clark; and the
Honorable NANCY L. ALLF, District Judge,

Respondents,

vs.

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA),
LTD.; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-MANDAVIA,
P.C.; and CRUM STEFANKO AND JONES, LTD.,

Real Parties in Interest.

Case No. 85656

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92	Recorder's Transcript of Hearing Motion to Associate Counsel on OST	04/01/21	16	3981–3986

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441	Supplemental Appendix of Exhibits to Motion to Seal Certain Confidential Trial Exhibits – Volume 3 of 18 (Filed Under Seal)	12/24/21	115 116	28,485–28,643 28,644–28,742
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443	Supplemental Appendix of Exhibits to Motion to Seal Certain Confidential Trial Exhibits – Volume 5 of 18 (Filed Under Seal)	12/24/21	117	28,939–29,084
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455	Supplemental Appendix of Exhibits to Motion to Seal Certain Confidential Trial Exhibits – Volume 17 of 18 (Filed Under Seal)	12/24/21	125	30,953–31,122
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467	Transcript of Proceedings re Status Check (Filed Under Seal)	10/06/22	129	31,944–31,953
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160	Transcript of Proceedings Re: Motions	10/22/21	24 25	5908–6000 6001–6115
459	Transcript of Proceedings Re: Motions (Filed Under Seal)	01/12/22	127	31,501–31,596
460	Transcript of Proceedings Re: Motions (Filed Under Seal)	01/20/22	127 128	31,597–31,643 31,644–31,650
461	Transcript of Proceedings Re: Motions (Filed Under Seal)	01/27/22	128	31,651–31,661
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39	Transcript of Proceedings, All Pending Motions	06/09/20	6	1385–1471
46	Transcript of Proceedings, Plaintiff's Motion to Compel Defendants' Production of Unredacted MultiPlan, Inc. Agreement	07/29/20	7	1644–1663
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233	Trial Brief Regarding Jury Instructions on Unjust Enrichment	11/16/21	41	10,232–10,248
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 18, 2023, I submitted the foregoing appendix for filing *via* the Court's eFlex electronic filing system.

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I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid, at Las Vegas, Nevada, addressed as follows:

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 3rd day of November, 2020, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **DEFENDANTS' TENTH SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES TO FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA) LTD.'S FIRST SET OF REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS** was electronically served on counsel through the Court's electronic service system pursuant to Administrative Order 14-2 and N.E.F.C.R. 9, via the electronic mail addresses noted below, unless service by another method is stated or noted:

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EXHIBIT 17

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DISTRICT COURT**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES
(MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada professional
corporation; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF
NEVADA-MANDAVIA, P.C., a Nevada
professional corporation; CRUM, STEFANKO
AND JONES, LTD. dba RUBY CREST
EMERGENCY MEDICINE, a Nevada
professional corporation,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP, INC., a Delaware
corporation; UNITED HEALTHCARE
INSURANCE COMPANY, a Connecticut
corporation; UNITED HEALTH CARE
SERVICES INC., dba UNITEDHEALTHCARE,
a Minnesota corporation; UMR, INC., dba
UNITED MEDICAL RESOURCES, a Delaware
corporation; OXFORD HEALTH PLANS, INC., a
Delaware corporation; SIERRA HEALTH AND
LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., a Nevada
corporation; SIERRA HEALTH-CARE
OPTIONS, INC., a Nevada corporation; HEALTH
PLAN OF NEVADA, INC., a Nevada
corporation; DOES 1-10; ROE ENTITIES 11-20,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-19-792978-B

Dept. No.: 27

**DEFENDANTS' FOURTH
SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES TO
FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES
(MANDAVIA), LTD.'S FIRST SET OF
INTERROGATORIES**

1 Defendants UnitedHealth Group, Inc., UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company (“UHIC”),
2 United HealthCare Services, Inc. (“UHS”), UMR, Inc. (“UMR”), Oxford Health Plans LLC
3 (incorrectly named as “Oxford Health Plans, Inc.”), Sierra Health and Life Insurance Co., Inc.
4 (“SHL”), Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc. (“SHO”), and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. (“HPN”)
5 (collectively “Defendants” or “United”), by and through their attorneys of the law firm of
6 Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial, LLC, hereby supplement their responses to Plaintiff’s
7 (“Plaintiff” or “Fremont”) First Set of Interrogatories (new information in **bold**):

8 **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

9 Defendants have made diligent efforts to respond to the Interrogatories, but reserve the
10 right to change, amend, or supplement their responses and objections. Additionally, Defendants
11 do not waive their right to assert any and all applicable privileges, doctrines, and protections, and
12 hereby expressly state their intent and reserve their right to withhold responsive information on
13 the basis of any and all applicable privileges, doctrines, and protections.

14 Defendants’ responses are made without in any way waiving or intending to waive, but on
15 the contrary, intending to preserve and preserving, their right, in this litigation or any subsequent
16 proceeding, to object on any grounds to the use of documents or information provided/produced
17 in response to the Interrogatories.

18 Defendants are limiting their responses to the Interrogatories to the reasonable time-frame
19 of July 1, 2017 to January 31, 2020 (“Relevant Period”) and object to the Interrogatories to the
20 extent that Plaintiff fails to limit the Interrogatories to a specific time period.

21 **SPECIFIC OBJECTIONS TO PLAINTIFF’S DEFINITIONS, INSTRUCTIONS, AND**
22 **RULES OF CONSTRUCTION**

23 1. Defendants objects to the “Instructions,” “Definitions,” and “Rules of
24 Construction” accompanying the Interrogatories to the extent they purport to impose any
25 obligation on Defendants different from or greater than those imposed by the Federal Rules of
26 Civil Procedure or applicable local rules.

27 2. Defendants object to the “Instructions,” “Definitions,” and “Rules of
28 Construction” to the extent they purport to require information concerning Protected Health

1 Information or other confidential or proprietary information without confidentiality protections
2 sufficient to protect such information from disclosure, such as those found in the Stipulated
3 Confidentiality and Protective Order entered on October 22, 2019. ECF No. 31.

4 3. Defendants object to the definition of “Claim” or “Claims” as vague, not
5 described with reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant to the
6 claims or defenses in this case, and not proportional to the needs of this case to the extent they
7 (1) include claims not specifically identified by Plaintiff in FESM000011, or (2) relate to claims,
8 patients, or health benefits plans for which Defendants are not responsible for the at-issue claims
9 administration.

10 4. Defendants object to the definition of “Clark County Market” as vague, not
11 described with reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, and not relevant to the
12 claims or defenses in this case to the extent that the phrase “geographic market,” as utilized in
13 that definition, (1) includes persons or entities that are not parties to this case, or (2) concerns
14 persons or entities unrelated to the at-issue claims.

15 5. Defendants object to the Interrogatories to the extent they seek information
16 protected by the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work product doctrine, the settlement
17 privilege, or any other applicable privilege, including, but not limited to: information that was
18 prepared for, or in anticipation of, litigation; that contains or reflects the analysis, mental
19 impressions, or work of counsel; that contains or reflects attorney-client communications; or that
20 is otherwise privileged. Defendants object on the same basis to the terms “identify,” “describe,”
21 and “explain” as used in these Interrogatories to the extent they seek privileged or protected
22 information.

23 6. Defendants object to the definition of the terms “Defendants,” as used in the
24 context of the Interrogatories, and “You,” and/or “Your” as vague, not described with reasonable
25 particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not proportional to the needs of the case, and
26 seeking information that is not relevant to the outcome of any claims or defenses in this
27 litigation. Plaintiff’s definition includes, for example, “predecessors-in-interest,” “partners,”
28 “any past or present agents,” and “every person acting or purporting to act, or who has ever acted

1 or purported to act, on their behalf,” which suggests that Plaintiff seeks information beyond
2 Defendants’ possession, custody, or control. Defendants will not search for information or
3 materials beyond their possession, custody, or control. Defendants have answered the
4 Interrogatories on behalf of Defendants, *as defined herein*, only based upon Defendants’
5 knowledge, information in Defendants’ possession, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry.

6 7. Defendants object to the definition of “Fremont” as vague, not described with
7 reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not proportional to the needs of the
8 case, and seeking information that is not relevant to the outcome of any claims or defenses in this
9 litigation. Plaintiff’s definition includes, for example, “any past or present agents,”
10 “representatives,” “partners,” “predecessors-in-interest,” “affiliates,” and “every person acting
11 or purporting to act, or who has ever acted or purported to act, on [its] behalf” without
12 identifying these entities or persons with reasonable particularity, and creating an undue burden
13 by requiring Defendants to identify them. In responding to the Interrogatories, Defendants will
14 construe “Fremont” to refer to those parties who were known to have been affiliated with
15 Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd. during the Relevant Period.

16 8. Defendants object to the definition of “Emergency Services and Care,”
17 “Emergency Medicine Services,” and “Emergency Department Services” as vague, not described
18 with reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant to the claims or
19 defenses in this case, and not proportional to the needs of this case to the extent they (1) include
20 any medical services not related to the at-issue claims, or (2) relate to any medical services for
21 claims, patients, or health benefits plans for which Defendants are not responsible for the at-issue
22 claims administration.

23 9. Defendants object to the definition of “HMO” as vague, not described with
24 reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant to the claims or defenses in
25 this case, and not proportional to the needs of this case to the extent it (1) includes health benefits
26 plans and members of such plans not specifically identified by Plaintiff, (2) includes health
27 benefits plans that are not related to the at-issue claims, or (3) refers to health benefits plans for
28 which Defendants are not responsible for the at-issue claims administration.

1 10. Defendants object to the definition of “Nonemergency Services and Care” as
2 vague, not described with reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant
3 to the claims or defenses in this case, and not proportional to the needs of this case to the extent
4 it (1) includes services by not related to the at-issue claims, or (2) relate to the services for
5 claims, patients, or health benefits plans for which Defendants are not responsible for the at-issue
6 claims administration.

7 11. Defendants object to the definition of “Non-Participating Provider,” “Non-
8 Network Provider,” “Participating Provider,” and “Network Provider” as vague, not described
9 with reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant to the claims or
10 defenses in this case, and not proportional to the needs of this case to the extent they (1) include
11 persons or entities that are not parties to this case, or (2) concern persons or entities unrelated to
12 the at-issue claims.

13 12. Defendants object to the definition of “Plans” and “Plan Members” as vague, not
14 described with reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant to the
15 claims or defenses in this case, and not proportional to the needs of this case to the extent they
16 (1) include health benefits plans and members of such plans not specifically identified by
17 Plaintiff, (2) include health benefits plans that are not related to the at-issue claims, or (3) are
18 referring to health benefits plans for which Defendants are not responsible for the at-issue claims
19 administration.

20 13. Defendants object to the definition of “Provider” as vague, not described with
21 reasonable particularity, overbroad, unduly burdensome, not relevant to the claims or defenses in
22 this case, and not proportional to the needs of this case to the extent it (1) includes persons or
23 entities that are not parties to this case, or (2) concerns persons or entities unrelated to the at-
24 issue claims.

25 14. Defendants object to Instruction No. 1 as unduly burdensome and not proportional
26 to the needs of the case insofar as it asks Defendants to provide “the person’s full name, present
27 or last known address and telephone number, the present or last known business affiliation,
28

1 including business address and telephone number, and their prior or current connection, interest
2 or association with any Party to this litigation.”

3 15. Defendants object to Instruction No. 2 as unduly burdensome and not proportional
4 to the needs of the case insofar as it asks Defendants to provide “the identity of all persons
5 affiliated with the organization having knowledge or documents concerning this lawsuit, and the
6 entity’s prior or current connection, interest or association with any Party to this litigation,
7 including without limitation any account names and numbers.”

8 16. Defendants object to Instruction No. 3 as vague and overbroad, and on the further
9 ground that it renders the Interrogatories overbroad and unduly burdensome. Defendants have
10 answered on behalf of Defendants only, and Defendants will not search for information or
11 materials beyond their possession, custody, or control.

12 17. Defendants object to Instruction No. 4 as vague and overbroad, and on the further
13 ground that it renders the Interrogatories overbroad and unduly burdensome. Defendants have
14 answered on behalf of Defendants only, and Defendants will not search for information or
15 materials beyond their possession, custody, or control.

16 18. Defendants object to Instruction Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 to the extent
17 they seek to impose obligations and/or penalties on Defendants beyond what is contemplated by
18 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or applicable local rules. Defendants further object to
19 Instruction Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 to the extent those Instructions require disclosure
20 of information or materials protected by the attorney-client privilege, the attorney work product
21 doctrine, the settlement privilege, or any other applicable privilege, including, but not limited to:
22 information that was prepared for, or in anticipation of, litigation; that contains or reflects the
23 analysis, mental impressions, or work of counsel; that contains or reflects attorney-client
24 communications; or that is otherwise privileged.

25 **RESPONSES TO INTERROGATORIES**

26 **INTERROGATORY NO. 8:**

27 Identify all persons with knowledge of the following subject areas, identifying for each
28 person their name, address, phone number, employer, title, and the subject matter(s) of their

1 knowledge:

2 (a) The development of the methodology, the materials considered in developing the
3 methodology, and the methodology itself You used to calculate the allowed amount
4 and the amount of Your alleged payment obligations for the CLAIMS in the Clark
5 County Market;

6 (b) Communications with Fremont regarding the CLAIMS;

7 (c) To the extent that You contend or rely on provider charges by other providers to
8 determine Your alleged payment obligation for the CLAIMS, the identity of those
9 other providers, the amount of their charges, and any agreement(s) with those
10 providers regarding those charges.

11 **RESPONSE:**

12 Subject to and without waiving Defendants' objections, including Defendants' specific objections
13 to Plaintiff's Definitions, Instructions and Rules of Construction, Defendants state as follows:

14 Defendants object that this Interrogatory is overbroad and unduly burdensome to the
15 extent it seeks the identification of "all persons" with knowledge of the particular subject areas.
16 *Mancini v. Ins. Corp. of New York*, No. CIV. 07CV1750-L NLS, 2009 WL 1765295, at *3 (S.D.
17 Cal. June 18, 2009) ("Contention interrogatories are often overly broad and unduly burdensome
18 when they require a party to state "every fact" or "all facts" supporting identified allegations or
19 defenses."); *Bashkin v. San Diego Cty.*, No. 08-CV-1450-WQH WVG, 2011 WL 109229, at *2
20 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 13, 2011) ("In the written discovery process, parties are not entitled to each and
21 every detail that could possibly exist in the universe of facts . . . Further, to the extent Plaintiff
22 seeks every minute detail and narratives about the subject incident and every possible
23 surrounding circumstance, written discovery is not the proper vehicle to obtain such detail.").
24 Defendants will not be listing every single person who has any knowledge of the listed topics.

25 Defendants also object that all three categories listed (a, b and c) are overbroad, vague
26 and by extension unduly burdensome. As to category a, Defendants object that information on
27 the development of the methodology is not relevant to Fremont's claims and not proportional to
28 the needs of the case. Moreover, to identify the persons who would have knowledge of the

1 methodologies used to determine the amount of reimbursement for each of Fremont's 15,210
2 claims, Defendants would have to pull the administrative record for each of the 15,210 claims,
3 which, as set forth more fully in Defendants' objection to Interrogatory No. 1, would be unduly
4 burdensome and not proportional to the needs of the case.

5 As to category b, Defendants object that this category is vague, overbroad and unduly
6 burdensome. The number of individuals who may have knowledge of *any* communications
7 between Defendants and Fremont regarding the 15,210 claims at issue is huge. Defendants
8 request that Fremont narrow this Interrogatory to specific type(s) of communications that will
9 allow Defendants to identify a reasonable number of individuals with information on those
10 specific communications.

11 As to category c, Defendants object that this category calls for them to reveal
12 information about their agreements with other providers. Defendants' agreements with other
13 providers typically contain confidentiality clauses such that revealing this information could
14 force Defendants to breach their obligations to these third parties. Moreover, the information
15 sought is proprietary and subject to protection as a trade secret pursuant to NRS 600A.030(5) as
16 this information has independent value due to, among other things, the fact that it is not known to
17 other providers like Fremont.

18 Defendants further object to the extent this interrogatory is intended to force Defendants
19 to name Rule 30(b)(6) witnesses for these categories prior to a Rule 30(b)(6) deposition notice
20 being issued.

21 Responding further, subject to and without waiving Defendants' objections: Defendant
22 identifies the following witnesses:

- 23 (1) Jacy Jefferson, Director, Network Development & Contracts, Health Plan of
24 Nevada/Sierra Health & Life, c/o Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC
25 **and O'Melveny & Myers LLP:** Mr. Jefferson is expected to have knowledge of
26 agreements Fremont entered into with Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. ("HPN"), Sierra
27 HealthCare Options, Inc., Sierra Health & Life Insurance Company, Inc., and
28 UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company, including those listed in response to

Interrogatory No. 5, and their applicability to claims submitted to Sierra and HPN by Fremont; and the reimbursement methodology used by Sierra and HPN for non-participating provider emergency department charges applicable to claims submitted by Fremont after Fremont became a non-participating provider on or around February 26, 2019.

(2) Scott Ziemer, Vice President, Customer Solutions, UMR, c/o Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC **and O'Melveny & Myers LLP**: Mr. Ziemer is expected to have knowledge of the contractual relationship between UMR, Inc. and Private Healthcare Systems, Inc., and the products and services provided by PHCS to UMR, including complementary or wrap networks. Mr. Ziemer is also expected to have knowledge of the contractual relationship between UMR and First Health Group Corp., and the products and services provided by First Health to UMR, including complementary or wrap networks.

(3) Rebecca Paradise, Vice President, Out-Of-Network Payment Strategy, UnitedHealthcare, c/o Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC **and O'Melveny & Myers LLP**: Ms. Paradise is expected to have knowledge of the contractual relationship between United and MultiPlan, Inc. ("MultiPlan"), and the products and services provided by MultiPlan to United, including complementary or wrap networks, fee negotiation services, and the Data iSight pricing tool. Ms. Paradise is also expected to have knowledge of the contractual relationship between United and First Health Group Corp., and the products and services provided by First Health to United, including complementary or wrap networks. Finally, Ms. Paradise is also expected to have knowledge of United's Extended Non-Network Reimbursement Program ("ENRP").

(4) Lisa Dealy, Director, Special Investigations Unit, Customer Care and Ledger Billing for UnitedHealthcare, Student Resources, c/o Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC **and O'Melveny & Myers LLP**: Ms. Dealy is expected to have knowledge of the processing of claims submitted by non-participating provider

1 emergency department providers by Student Resources; and the fact and manner by
 2 which Student Resources uses health claim reimbursement-related information from
 3 FAIR Health in the course of processing non-participating provider emergency
 4 department claims.

5 **Responding further, subject to and without waiving Defendants' objections:**
 6 **Defendant identifies the following witnesses:**

7 **Marty Millerleile, Manager, Provider Network Operations, UMR, c/o Weinberg,**
 8 **Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC and O'Melveny & Myers LLP: Ms. Millerleile is**
 9 **expected to have knowledge of the agreements Fremont entered into with the following self-**
 10 **funded plan sponsor clients of UMR, Inc.: MGM Resorts International, Caesar's**
 11 **Entertainment, Inc., and Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, including those**
 12 **previously listed in response to Interrogatory No. 5; and negotiations that took place**
 13 **between Fremont and certain other self-funded plan sponsor clients of UMR, Inc.,**
 14 **including Las Vegas Sands Company ("LVSC") d/b/a the Venetian Las Vegas, that may**
 15 **have culminated in a participating provider agreement. Finally, Ms. Millerleile is expected**
 16 **to have knowledge of the non-participating emergency department provider**
 17 **reimbursement methodology(ies) used by certain UMR self-funded plan sponsor clients**

18 **Defendants have made diligent efforts to respond to this Interrogatory, but**
 19 **reserve the right to supplement their response and objections.**

20 Dated this 11th day of January, 2021.

21
 22 /s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn
 23 D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq.
 24 Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq.
 25 Brittany M. Llewellyn, Esq.
 26 WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS,
 27 GUNN & DIAL, LLC
 28 6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
 Telephone: (702) 938-3838
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Natasha S. Fedder, Esq.
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 Washington, DC 20006
 Telephone: (202) 383-5374

Attorneys for Defendants



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 11th day of January, 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **DEFENDANTS' FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES TO FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA), LTD.'S FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES** was electronically filed/served on counsel through the Court's electronic service system pursuant to Administrative Order 14-2 and N.E.F.C.R. 9, via the electronic mail addresses noted below, unless service by another method is stated or noted:

Pat Lundvall, Esq.
 Kristen T. Gallagher, Esq.
 Amanda M. Perach, Esq.
 McDonald Carano LLP
 2300 W. Sahara Ave., Suite 1200
 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
 plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com
 kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com
 aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd.

 /s/ Cynthia S. Bowman
 An employee of WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS
 GUNN & DIAL, LLC

970930

WEINBERG WHEELER
HUDGINS GUNN & DIAL



VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, Marty Millerleile, declare that I have read the foregoing **DEFENDANTS' FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL ANSWERS TO PLAINTIFFS' FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES**, and verify Defendants' response to Plaintiffs' Interrogatory 8. While I do not have personal knowledge of all of the facts recited in Defendants' response to this Interrogatory, I have knowledge as to certain contracts and agreements referenced therein, and can verify that the information is true to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. If called upon to do so, I could and would testify competently to the information set forth herein.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct.



Dated: 12/14/2020

Marty Millerleile
Associate Director, Network Operations, UMR

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EXHIBIT 18

Kristen T. Gallagher

From: Blalack II, K. Lee <lblalack@omm.com>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 6:43 PM
To: Kristen T. Gallagher; Fedder, Natasha S.
Cc: Pat Lundvall; Roberts, Lee; Balkenbush, Colby; Llewellyn, Brittany M.; Portnoi, Dimitri D.; Levine, Adam; Amanda Perach
Subject: RE: Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd., et. al. v. UnitedHealth Group, Inc. et. al.; Case No. A-19-792978-B

Ms. Gallagher:

My name is Lee Blalack and I am counsel for the United Defendants. Nice to meet you. I will be defending Mr. Rosenthal's deposition so I am responding to your message of this afternoon.

It is not acceptable to the Defendants that Mr. Rosenthal be produced for a deposition at some later date using the process that you outlined below -- namely, Plaintiffs' counsel identifying three dates of their unilateral choosing and then Mr. Rosenthal agreeing to appear during one of those dates unless he can demonstrate unavailability according to the definition of "reasonable availability" that the Court announced at the hearing on February 25, 2021. We do not believe that your proposed procedure for scheduling depositions is efficient or practical given that we both represent corporate clients with many senior executives who have busy schedules that must be accommodated, not to mention that all of the lawyers involved in this case have heavy dockets where professional courtesy warrants a good-faith attempt to consider counsels' schedules. Perhaps I am wrong but I suspect that, like my clients, your clients' senior executives will not find it reasonable to be presented with three dates of my choosing and then be forced to appear on one of those three dates absent evidence of a personal or family emergency. For that reason, when we meet and confer next week about the scheduling of depositions in this case, we will urge a more collaborative and cooperative process for identifying dates to schedule the depositions of our respective clients' personnel.

With respect to Mr. Rosenthal, United will produce him for deposition on March 12th if you elect to proceed with the deposition knowing full well that the production of his custodial documents will not be complete by that date. Or, if Plaintiffs prefer to wait until that document production is complete to depose Mr. Rosenthal, we will be glad to schedule his deposition at a later date that is mutually convenient for you, Mr. Rosenthal and myself. But we will not agree to produce him at one of three dates that you unilaterally select without regard to Mr. Rosenthal's convenience or my availability. If that is indeed Plaintiffs' view, then we should go ahead and proceed with his deposition on the noticed date.

Defendants wish to work constructively and collaboratively with Plaintiffs to schedule before the close of fact discovery the many depositions that have been noticed in this case. We believe we can do so in a manner that does not impose unnecessarily on the business schedules of our respective clients' executives. I hope that we can reach agreement next week on a satisfactory process for doing so. The alternative will result in unnecessary burdens and disruptions on my client and your client as well.

Please let me know this weekend if Plaintiffs wish to proceed with Mr. Rosenthal's deposition on March 12th, as I must finalize arrangements for the deposition by Monday.

Sincerely,
Lee Blalack

From: Kristen T. Gallagher <kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com>
Sent: Friday, March 5, 2021 6:01 PM
To: Fedder, Natasha S. <nfedder@omm.com>
Cc: Pat Lundvall <plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Roberts, Lee <LRoberts@wwhgd.com>; Balkenbush, Colby <CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com>; Llewellyn, Brittany M. <BLlewellyn@wwhgd.com>; Blalack II, K. Lee <lblalack@omm.com>; Portnoi, Dimitri D. <dportnoi@omm.com>; Levine, Adam <alevine@omm.com>; Amanda Perach <aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com>
Subject: RE: Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd., et. al. v. UnitedHealth Group, Inc. et. al.; Case No. A-19-792978-B

[EXTERNAL MESSAGE]

Natasha –

In response to the below, while we disagree that United can prevent the Health Care Providers from reconvening Mr. Rosenthal's deposition after document production, in an effort to reach common ground, the Health Care Providers propose the following: United produces Mr. Rosenthal's and his assistant(s)' custodial emails/documents (to include handwritings) by March 17, 2021. The Health Care Providers will then provide three dates shortly thereafter from which Mr. Rosenthal may choose to sit for deposition based on his reasonable availability as defined by the Court at the February 25, 2021 hearing.

Please also provide a date and time early next week so that we can discuss an order and sequence for depositions.

Thank you,
 Kristy

Kristen T. Gallagher | Partner

MCDONALD CARANO

P: 702.873.4100 | E: kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com

From: Fedder, Natasha S. <nfedder@omm.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 8:56 PM
To: Kristen T. Gallagher <kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com>
Cc: Pat Lundvall <plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Roberts, Lee <LRoberts@wwhgd.com>; Balkenbush, Colby <CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com>; Llewellyn, Brittany M. <BLlewellyn@wwhgd.com>; Blalack II, K. Lee <lblalack@omm.com>; Portnoi, Dimitri D. <dportnoi@omm.com>; Levine, Adam <alevine@omm.com>; Amanda Perach <aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com>
Subject: RE: Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd., et. al. v. UnitedHealth Group, Inc. et. al.; Case No. A-19-792978-B

Kristy,

Thank you for your response. We will produce Mr. Rosenthal on March 12th. We will, however, object to any effort Plaintiffs undertake to depose Mr. Rosenthal a second time for any reason, including to question Mr. Rosenthal on documents that Plaintiffs are on notice will be produced after March 12th. Plaintiffs are on notice that they will be proceeding with Mr. Rosenthal's deposition when they do not possess many of his custodial documents and with many weeks left to complete fact depositions. Under the circumstances, we will object to any argument that Plaintiffs have good cause to justify a second deposition of Mr. Rosenthal later in the fact discovery period.

Regarding Ms. Owen, we are not voluntarily withdrawing the notice at this time, though we will work with Plaintiffs to agree on a date as part of the larger scheduling process we described below. In the meantime, can you please let us know whether your client would agree to produce Ms. Owen for a deposition if the deposition were limited to lines of questioning regarding the letters Ms. Owen sent out to United's customers regarding TeamHealth's allegations in this matter? If your client will not agree to produce her under any circumstances it's important for United to know that in assessing how to proceed on this issue.

Thank you,
Natasha

Natasha S. Fedder
O: +1-213-430-8018
nfedder@omm.com

From: Kristen T. Gallagher <kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 4:47 PM
To: Fedder, Natasha S. <nfedder@omm.com>; Amanda Perach <aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com>
Cc: Pat Lundvall <plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Roberts, Lee <LRoberts@wwhgd.com>; Balkenbush, Colby <CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com>; Llewellyn, Brittany M. <BLlewellyn@wwhgd.com>; Blalack II, K. Lee <lblalack@omm.com>; Portnoi, Dimitri D. <dportnoi@omm.com>; Levine, Adam <alevine@omm.com>
Subject: RE: Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd., et. al. v. UnitedHealth Group, Inc. et. al.; Case No. A-19-792978-B

[EXTERNAL MESSAGE]

Natasha,

The Health Care Providers will depose Mr. Rosenthal on March 12 and will reconvene his deposition when United has completed its document production of his and his assistant(s)' custodial emails/documents (to include handwritings).

As to your first point below, we agree that the parties have agreed to discuss scheduling of depositions, subject to the Court's rulings at the February 25 hearing regarding timing, availability and ability to recall witnesses, etc. Please note, however, that the Health Care Providers have objected to Ms. Owen's deposition and I am awaiting the response from United after our earlier meet and confer as to whether United will voluntarily withdraw the notice of deposition.

Regards,
Kristy

Kristen T. Gallagher | Partner

McDONALD CARANO

P: 702.873.4100 | E: kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com

From: Fedder, Natasha S. <nfedder@omm.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 4, 2021 1:13 PM
To: Kristen T. Gallagher <kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Amanda Perach <aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com>
Cc: Pat Lundvall <plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Roberts, Lee <LRoberts@wwhgd.com>; Balkenbush, Colby <CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com>; Llewellyn, Brittany M. <BLlewellyn@wwhgd.com>; Blalack II, K. Lee <lblalack@omm.com>; Portnoi, Dimitri D. <dportnoi@omm.com>; Levine, Adam <alevine@omm.com>

Subject: Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd., et. al. v. UnitedHealth Group, Inc. et. al.; Case No. A-19-792978-B

Kristy and Amanda,

This communication is to confirm that the depositions you have noticed for Ms. Paradise, Ms. Niernan, and the seven 30(b)(6) deponents are not going forward prior to March 15. Rather, in light of the new agreed-upon May 31 fact deposition completion deadline we anticipate the Court will enter, the parties will work together to develop an agreed-upon schedule for those depositions, as well as the 10 depositions that United noticed recently, and present the same to the Special Master.

Regarding Mr. Rosenthal, we are unable to commit to making a full custodial production by March 8. We will continue to make document productions for Mr. Rosenthal before March 8th and even March 12th but we will not complete the production of all of his custodial documents by that date. Mr. Rosenthal has already made significant scheduling changes in light of your prior unilateral request to depose him, and he will be made available on March 12. Please confirm you will be proceeding with this deposition by 5PM Pacific today.

Thanks,
Natasha

O'Melveny

Natasha S. Fedder

nfedder@omm.com

O: +1-213-430-8018

O'Melveny & Myers LLP
400 South Hope Street, 18th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
[Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#)

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EXHIBIT 19

036083

Custodian	Count
Rosenthal, Daniel	3

036083

Row #	Bates	End Bates	Num Pages	Rating	Confidentiality	Custodian	Date	Date Received	Date Sent	End Family
1	DEF011049	DEF011049	1	unrated	CONFIDENTIAL	Rosenthal, Daniel				
2	DEF011050	DEF011051	2	unrated	CONFIDENTIAL	Rosenthal, Daniel				
3	DEF011052	DEF011054	3	unrated	CONFIDENTIAL	Rosenthal, Daniel				

EXHIBIT 20

(FILED UNDER SEAL)

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EXHIBIT 20

492

492

1 DISTRICT COURT
2 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

3
4 FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES
5 (MANDAVIA), LTD., a NEVADA
6 professional corporation;
7 TEAM PHYSICIANS OF
8 NEVADA-MANDAVIA, P.C., a
9 Nevada professional
10 corporation; CRUM, STEFANKO
11 AND JONES, LTD., dba RUBY
12 CREST EMERGENCY MEDICINE, a
13 Nevada professional
14 corporation,

15 Plaintiffs,

16 vs.

Case No. A-19-792978-B
Dept. No. XXVII

17
18 UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE
19 COMPANY, Connecticut
20 corporation; et cetera, et
21 al.,

22 Defendants.

23
24 (Full caption on Page 2)

25
26
27 MEETING OF COUNSEL BEFORE THE COURT
28 REGARDING PROPOSED JURY INSTRUCTIONS

29 HELD NOVEMBER 21, 2021

30 BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY L. ALLF

31 AT 3:15 PM PST

32 Reported by: Kimberly A. Farkas, CRR, NV CCR #741

33 Job No. 47193

1 DISTRICT COURT
2 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

3
4 FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES
5 (MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada
6 professional corporation;
7 TEAM PHYSICIAN OF
8 NEVADA-MANDAVIA, P.C., a
9 Nevada professional
10 corporation;
11 CRUM, STEFANKO
12 AND JONES, LTD. dba RUBY
13 CREST EMERGENCY MEDICINE, a
14 Nevada professional
15 corporation,

16 Plaintiffs,

17 vs.

Case No. A-19-792978-B
Dept. No. XXVII

18
19 UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE
20 COMPANY, a Connecticut
21 corporation; UNITED HEALTH
22 CARE SERVICES INC., dba
23 UNITEDHEALTHCARE, a Minnesota
24 corporation; UMR, INC., dba
25 UNITED MEDICAL RESOURCES, a
Delaware corporation; SIERRA
HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE
COMPANY, INC., a Nevada
corporation; HEALTH PLAN OF
NEVADA, INC., a Nevada
corporation;

Defendants.

1 APPEARANCES

2

3 For the Plaintiffs:

4

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12 JASON S. McMANIS, ESQ. (pro hac vice)
13 Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos,
14 Alavi & Mensing, P.C.
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17 jrobinson@azalaw.com

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19 For the Defendants:

20

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33

34

35

1 APPEARANCES (Continued)

2

3 For the Defendants:

4

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7 Gunn & Dial, LLC
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9 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
10 cbalkenbush@wwhgd.com

11

12 Also present: Colin Stanton, O'Melveny & Myers, LLP

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

1 Sunday, November 21, 2021;

2 3:15 P.M.

3 * * * * *

4 THE COURT: So let's -- I have the binder out
5 so we're going to start at 1. Let's do it.

6 MR. PORTNOI: So this is a defense proposed
7 instruction, which is only modified from the model
8 insofar as the model -- if you look at the next page,
9 the model is present for your convenience. It's just
10 so that we just replaced the bracketed language of
11 "his-her-its" and we just did "its."

12 THE COURT: Is there opposition? You guys
13 are sitting on the wrong side of the table.

14 MR. McMANIS: We switched things up.

15 THE COURT: It's like we're going back to
16 jury selection.

17 MR. McMANIS: We agree. This is following
18 the model so we don't have an objection.

19 THE COURT: So that can be given as is.
20 Let's go over to 2 then.

21 MR. PORTNOI: You may remember, Your Honor,
22 that we had reserved on this instruction and paused at
23 that time.

24 THE COURT: That was 13?

25 MR. PORTNOI: Yes. This would be -- it's

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1 based on model 13.45. And we have conferred, and we do
2 not have an objection to this instruction.

3 THE COURT: Okay. So No. 2 can be given.
4 No. 3.

5 MR. PORTNOI: This is 13.0. And Your Honor
6 may recall --I'm just going to point out --

7 THE COURT: And I forgot my laptop at home.
8 I managed to get the pattern instructions.

9 MR. PORTNOI: You're going to see me any
10 number of times drop my glasses. And that is because
11 this thing just minutes before we started.

12 THE COURT: No problem.

13 MR. PORTNOI: So I'll be holding them to my
14 head.

15 So where we left this instruction off,
16 Your Honor, you had asked that we confer on a
17 description. And if we could not come to an agreement,
18 that we would submit competing versions. What we have
19 is, in the binder, is language that Ms. Robinson had
20 emailed to us for their or for plaintiffs -- for
21 plaintiffs' suggestion. The second page there is what
22 defendants had originally proposed.

23 And the third page, we tried to slim this
24 down and make it more neutral and less long. But I do
25 think that, ultimately, for 13.0, we're likely to be

1 submitting separate proposals and asking Your Honor to
2 make a decision with respect to the -- with respect to
3 this issue.

4 THE COURT: So you want to confirm from the
5 plaintiffs' side?

6 MR. McMANIS: Your Honor, I think we had
7 submitted a proposal that was just based on the form
8 filled in. I don't know that -- let's see here.

9 MS. LUNDVALL: Your Honor, this is
10 Pat Lundvall. This is my recollection, and I think
11 Mr. Portnoi is close to being accurate. That is that
12 the last time we discussed this, you had asked the
13 parties to meet and confer if they couldn't reach
14 consensus. I know that we had proposed some language.
15 We haven't, to my knowledge, received anything back
16 from the defense. I know we also are going to suggest
17 tweaks from our language. So maybe the best way to
18 handle this might be to allow the parties the
19 opportunity to actually meet and confer so we can reach
20 consensus because that has not yet been done.

21 MR. PORTNOI: That's fine with us.

22 THE COURT: Mr. Portnoi, you'll give that a
23 look?

24 MR. PORTNOI: Yes, we'll give that a look.
25 And, certainly, by time tomorrow when Your Honor still

1 has the opportunity to look at it, we will -- we will
2 report back to you during the trial day tomorrow.

3 THE COURT: Tomorrow. Let's go to 4.

4 MR. PORTNOI: I think 4 is in here by error,
5 actually looking at it, because I believe Your Honor
6 had already ruled on the competing instruction that
7 plaintiffs had provided on 13.11. So I think we,
8 perhaps, still have a record to make that this was our
9 proposed instruction. And you may need to make the
10 record of saying that, instead, you are not going to
11 give our instruction, but are going to give, I believe,
12 I'm going to ask Mr. McManis to correct my
13 recollection, you're going to give the pattern.

14 THE COURT: Before I rule I always give the
15 other side a chance to weigh in. So Ms. Lundvall or
16 whoever --

17 MR. McMANIS: I wasn't there for that. I
18 don't know, Pat, if you have the detail on that.

19 MS. LUNDVALL: I'm looking at it. And I'm
20 trying to make sure that we're on the same page here
21 because I'm looking at the electronic version that was
22 sent to me. Are we looking at 13.3, Failure of
23 Condition Precedent?

24 MR. PORTNOI: No. We're looking at 13.11,
25 Implied-in-fact Contract.

1 MS. LUNDVALL: Okay. So that was not sent to
2 me electronically so I'm a little bit at a handicap
3 then at not being able to see what you're talking
4 about.

5 MR. PORTNOI: We're opening the zip file now
6 just so we can see what the folder would be called.
7 Give us a moment. It should be tab 4 in the zip file,
8 Pat.

9 MS. LUNDVALL: So tab 4 of the zip file is
10 13.30.

11 THE COURT: I think it's 13.11, Unimplied
12 Contracts.

13 MS. LUNDVALL: That's what I was trying to
14 get to in the sense of that we may have to defer on
15 this one until we're all on the same page.

16 MR. PORTNOI: Yeah. So, Pat, I'm going to
17 have Collin, my associate here, email you to make sure
18 that we're on the same page. Perhaps, if tab 5 that we
19 have in the binder matches your electronic tab 5, maybe
20 we can come back to this.

21 THE COURT: Okay. So we're going to just
22 defer 4 until a little bit?

23 MR. PORTNOI: Yes.

24 THE COURT: So let's go over to 5, please.

25 MR. PORTNOI: 5 is defendants' proposed

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1 instruction. It has no modification from the pattern.

2 MS. LUNDVALL: Which is Failure of Condition
3 Precedent?

4 MR. PORTNOI: No. Again, tab 5 is just
5 Contract Requirements, Nevada pattern 13.2.

6 MS. LUNDVALL: What I'm willing to do is to
7 try to toggle back and forth between these, but they're
8 not -- what was sent to me is not in the same order
9 that you're discussing them. So if you'd please read
10 the title so that I can try to find it.

11 THE COURT: 13.2, Contract Requirements.

12 MR. PORTNOI: Since I was the one that
13 emailed you the zip file, I'll open that zip file so
14 that I can maybe help you follow along.

15 Pat, when I open tab 5, it does come to --
16 so, Pat, I think what's happening is because of the
17 numerical order, when you open the zip file, the
18 folders are in order and it goes 1, 10, 11, 12, 13. So
19 you scroll down to where it actually has 2, 3, 4, 5.

20 MS. LUNDVALL: Well, the zip file, whoever
21 sent it to me, has 72 files to it. And the numerical
22 order in which I have been given on these doesn't look
23 the same. So I'm going to have to defer then until
24 Ms. Robinson gets here on this point since --

25 MR. PORTNOI: I think what's happened is

1 whatever, probably, virus software you are using has
2 pulled out the folders that are inside the zip file and
3 it's giving you undifferentiated files as opposed to
4 the folders that were in the zip folder. So I don't
5 know, actually -- we can email you as we go along the
6 individual files that are relevant to our conversation
7 and do that on a rolling basis until Ms. Robinson
8 comes, but there's not going to be an instruction
9 that's not going to work that way.

10 MS. LUNDVALL: All right. Well, from that
11 perspective, I have no heartburn with that.

12 MR. PORTNOI: Collin, why don't you email
13 right now whatever the individual files we're
14 discussing right now.

15 THE COURT: So we're deferring 4 and 5?

16 MR. PORTNOI: Well, I don't think we can
17 because this is going to apply to all the files that
18 Pat has right now -- that Ms. Lundvall has right now.
19 So we just need to get the email to her and,
20 hopefully --

21 MR. McMANIS: I think I can say for No. 5,
22 our position is that this is an instruction that
23 applies to express contracts as opposed to implied
24 contracts. And there's not evidence that would support
25 submitting this instruction. It's not an

1 express contract case. It's an implied contract case.
2 So, for that reason, we'd object to the instruction.

3 THE COURT: Good enough.

4 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, I would disagree
5 with that. This is just contract requirements. It is
6 black letter law in Nevada that an express contract has
7 the same elements as an implied-in-fact contract. The
8 source authority cites to Certified Fire, which deals
9 with both kinds of contracts.

10 So I do believe that the contract instruction
11 that -- in fact, all of the model instructions that go
12 from 13.2 onward all apply to both kinds of contracts.
13 And then what is contemplated by the pattern is that
14 once you've instructed the jury on what a -- on all the
15 various elements of the contract formation, that's when
16 the instructions give -- you know, that's when the
17 instructions using 13.11 suggests that the Court say,
18 in this case, all of those elements have to be
19 satisfied by conduct as opposed to by a writing or an
20 oral -- or oral statements.

21 THE COURT: Going back to 2. 2 doesn't close
22 the loop on contracts because it only deals with
23 damages.

24 MR. PORTNOI: 13.2 -- when I say 13.2, I'm
25 referring to the model instruction that is at tab 5.

1 THE COURT: Right. I know. But I share his
2 concern based upon the plaintiff that because it's not
3 a written contract, and the standard for implied
4 contract is conduct.

5 MR. PORTNOI: That's true, Your Honor. But
6 the conduct still has to demonstrate, as Certified Fire
7 held, offer and acceptance, a meeting of the minds, and
8 consideration. And that's all that the pattern
9 instruction 13.2 provides. It is supplied by conduct,
10 that is true, but it is still the same elements. And
11 nothing about this instruction or the pattern
12 instruction suggests anything about a writing or an
13 oral promise.

14 THE COURT: Give you one last shot at this.

15 MR. McMANIS: Yes, Your Honor. I think that
16 the instruction -- I know that we kind of deferred 4,
17 but I think the basis for that was that it had been
18 previously ruled on. I think that instruction in 13.11
19 already says that terms are per conduct and requires
20 manifestation of an attempt to contract ascertainable
21 agreement. I think that covers it from an implied
22 contract perspective.

23 THE COURT: Based on that argument, we won't
24 give the 5 as proposed.

25 Are we ready to go to 6?

1 MR. PORTNOI: Did you email 6? Okay.

2 6 is based on 13.5. This is formation offer.
3 We have eliminated some of the bracketed language that
4 we don't think applies to this case. Again, an offer
5 needs to be -- an offer is still required in an
6 implied-in-fact contract. The offer is supplied by
7 conduct.

8 I will point out Certified Fire, likewise,
9 states that an offer is a required element of an
10 implied-in-fact contract. 13.11, which refers to a
11 implied-in-fact contract, doesn't refer to that
12 element, which is a required element that the jury has
13 to find under the law. So I do believe that we need to
14 have an instruction on offer even in an implied-in-fact
15 contract case like this. Otherwise, the jury will risk
16 returning a verdict that is inconsistent with
17 Certified Fire.

18 THE COURT: Thank you.

19 MR. McMANIS: Your Honor, our response would
20 be the same as it would to the prior one. This is an
21 instruction for a written contract context, not an
22 implied-in-fact contract, and that the manifestation of
23 the parties of an intent to contract is inferred from
24 conduct as instructed in 13.11. So for the same
25 reasons as with the prior instruction, we don't think

1 that this is an instruction that should be given
2 because this is an implied-in-fact contract case.

3 MS. LUNDVALL: In addition, Your Honor, as
4 far as when you take a look at that instruction, it
5 also speaks to revocation. And what I'm trying to do
6 is to discern at this point in time if the jury has
7 heard any evidence on revocation. I don't think
8 revocation has anything to do with this case.

9 THE COURT: I have the same concern.

10 MR. PORTNOI: The revocation language is
11 bracketed, and is, therefore, designed to come out in a
12 case where it is not -- where the facts haven't
13 presented. I believe it's something that should be
14 given because, otherwise, you have a situation where we
15 have an offer that somehow exists forever. And Nevada
16 law does not prefer contracts that have no termination
17 date and offers that have no termination.

18 But if Your Honor has -- does not believe
19 that the facts warrant the revocation language, then
20 that can be -- then the instructions, the pattern
21 instructions, would contemplate simply striking that
22 language.

23 THE COURT: I think what's appropriate is to
24 give the first paragraph of 13.5, and just take out the
25 bracketed information.

1 MR. PORTNOI: Good enough, Your Honor.

2 THE COURT: So that takes us over to No. 7.

3 I've read everything this morning, but I just need a
4 minute to refresh my memory.

5 MR. PORTNOI: Please take your time,
6 Your Honor. And, again, we've given you the pattern
7 behind it.

8 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Portnoi.

9 MR. PORTNOI: This is, I believe, an
10 unmodified pattern instruction with respect to
11 acceptance. It obviously compares with the offer
12 language that Your Honor just suggested should be given
13 in part. And so I believe, again, this still --
14 obviously, the jury will also be instructed through
15 13.11 that this will be manifested by conduct so I
16 think that this, again, given that offer and acceptance
17 are elements in an implied-in-fact contract, ought to
18 be given.

19 MR. McMANIS: Your Honor, we have the same
20 position. I think -- I won't be repetitive. I do
21 think that the second paragraph about qualified or
22 conditional acceptance is probably not supported by any
23 of the evidence that's come out. I don't think there's
24 been any discussion of that. So while I would make the
25 same argument, you know, with respect to the entire

1 instruction, that specific portion of it, I think, is
2 not supported by the evidence.

3 THE COURT: Thank you.

4 MS. LUNDVALL: In addition, as to the first
5 paragraph, what this contemplates is a communication to
6 the party making the offer. And a communication
7 suggests that that's something oral or in writing. And
8 there has been no question about the fact that what we
9 are contending is that conduct is the acceptance that
10 has ruled in this case.

11 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, may I be heard?

12 THE COURT: I never cut anybody off.

13 MR. PORTNOI: I just didn't -- I saw you
14 reading.

15 THE COURT: We just kind of Ping-Ponged.

16 MR. PORTNOI: I'm sorry. I'm just used to
17 asking.

18 So I don't believe that -- a communication
19 doesn't necessarily require words. A communication can
20 occur by conduct. If Your Honor may recall
21 Ms. Lundvall's argument in the directed verdict and the
22 arguments that Your Honor credited on the
23 implied-in-fact contract were the argument that we
24 had -- that the defendants -- rather, that plaintiffs
25 had communicated bills to the defendants, and the

1 defendants had decided to pay on those bills. Those
2 are communications. Those are not oral communications
3 in the sense or written communications in the sense of,
4 I intend to contract, I offer, I accept. They just
5 continue to refer to conduct.

6 And, again, the jury will be able to follow
7 the pattern instructions that, once having been
8 instructed on offer and acceptance, being subsequently
9 instructed by 13.11, that all of these elements will
10 be -- will not be by words, they will be inferred from
11 the conduct of the parties, that that will
12 nonetheless -- that that will modify 13.6 and provide a
13 clarity that this is all by conduct.

14 THE COURT: To be consistent with the way we
15 addressed 6, I do understand that acceptance is one of
16 the elements of the contract, but I don't think that
17 the qualified or conditional acceptance is an issue
18 here. We can give the first paragraph of 13.6.

19 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, I would just like
20 to make a record because I do think qualified
21 acceptance is actually quite relevant here. Because,
22 in a sense, that may be precisely what United did. It
23 did not pay the billed charges. It paid the amount it
24 believed was reasonable. That could be interpreted as
25 a qualified acceptance to pay that amount but not to

1 pay full billed charges. So, in reality, this is
2 actually qualified acceptance is a central issue.

3 THE COURT: All right. And the response?

4 MS. LUNDVALL: On that particular issue, what
5 Mr. Portnoi underscores is the fact that both sides
6 agree that there is a duty to pay a reasonable value.
7 The specific term or the specific sum on that is up for
8 dispute. So to the extent that what he is suggesting
9 is that by not paying what we had specifically
10 requested, that that constitutes a rejection. And I
11 just don't think that that's what the law is and that
12 the paragraph would give them that type of an argument.

13 THE COURT: For the record, please.

14 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, I don't believe
15 that what I'm suggesting is that it automatically turns
16 it into a qualified acceptance. I'm suggesting that if
17 the jury finds the facts that way, the jury can find a
18 qualified acceptance. And both sides will be able to
19 argue based on the law in closing and prior to that.
20 So I don't believe that giving the qualified acceptance
21 language mandates that the jury has to do anything. It
22 simply instructs the jury on what a qualified
23 acceptance is.

24 MS. LUNDVALL: And then because then what you
25 end up doing is looking at the balance of the paragraph

1 saying that, if, in fact, that it did a qualified or
2 conditional acceptance, it rejects the original offer
3 and it's a counteroffer that must be accepted,
4 otherwise, there's no contract being formed.

5 THE COURT: I just don't see the second
6 paragraph applying.

7 Anything more for the record?

8 MR. PORTNOI: No, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Let's go over to 8.

10 MR. PORTNOI: 8 is another one of defendants'
11 instructions. It is, again, just the pattern
12 instruction 13.7, which is not -- which is not
13 disputed. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to say "not
14 disputed." It's not modified. And it simply refers to
15 what is the ascertainable agreement that the jury would
16 have to find.

17 As Certified Fire holds, any contract,
18 including an implied-in-fact contract, does require a
19 meeting of the minds so as to essential terms. And so
20 in this case this is simply a -- hold on. May I have a
21 moment, Your Honor?

22 THE COURT: Take your time.

23 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, this is actually
24 modified from 13.7. I was speaking in error.

25 The modification is that defendants have

1 added "including the price for any services contracted
2 for because the specific price for services to be paid
3 is a material term."

4 We do believe that's a correct statement of
5 the law and ought to be instructed in 13.7 with the
6 modification "should be provided." A number of cases,
7 many of them are cited in here, the contract in
8 Certified Fire, for instance, failed, in part, due to
9 the absence of a price term. So we would ask that
10 defendants' instruction, which is a somewhat modified
11 instruction of 13.7. I do apologize that the modified
12 was not noted on the page.

13 THE COURT: No problem. And this is
14 something I considered about price when you did your
15 motion.

16 MR. PORTNOI: Yeah. So I do believe with
17 respect to our motion, and I think also with respect to
18 an instruction that had been proposed by plaintiffs,
19 where they had suggested adding language that price is
20 not a material term, I think Your Honor elected to not
21 give that language. So while we continue to believe
22 this entire instruction should be given, for
23 consistency, a backup position could be to simply give
24 the pattern instruction unmodified.

25 MS. LUNDVALL: And what this would do, by

1 giving the instruction as proposed or any form of the
2 instruction, in essence, would contradict then the
3 argument that was made and that was actually accepted
4 then in denying the motion for directed verdict, the
5 Rule 50 motion. So the Court rejected the principle
6 that price was a material term of the agreement. And
7 now they're asking the Court then to include some
8 suggestion that price is a material term.

9 THE COURT: How is this relevant to an
10 implied-in-fact contract?

11 MR. PORTNOI: An implied-in-fact contract
12 still requires a meeting of the minds. That is a
13 necessary element under Certified Fire, under
14 subsequent cases, and so on. Again, an implied-in-fact
15 contract has all the same elements of a contract. You
16 just have to have them implied through conduct as
17 opposed through a written statement or an oral
18 statement.

19 So a meeting of the minds still has to happen
20 through conduct. You still need to find -- there still
21 needs to be the case that the parties came to a meeting
22 of the minds, but the only evidence that the jury has
23 to find the meeting of the minds is conduct.

24 And, again, after giving the 13.7, and
25 assuming that we're talking about the model here,

1 because I believe Your Honor is probably not inclined
2 to give the price term element of it, but giving 13.7
3 unmodified, again, after 13.7 is given unmodified, at
4 some point, 13.11 will be given. And 13.11 will
5 emphasize that for every element of the contract, the
6 existence and terms are going to be inferred from
7 conduct. They're not going to be inferred from a
8 written statement or an oral statement.

9 MS. LUNDVALL: 13.7 seems to try to place
10 undue emphasis on earlier instructions that The Court
11 will have already given. And one of the suggestions
12 then that's found in 13.7 is that the parties must
13 assent to the same terms and conditions. And so to the
14 suggestion Mr. Portnoi offers is that somehow this is
15 silent on terms, it implies that there had to have been
16 an agreement on the price.

17 THE COURT: So I'm going to suggest that the
18 language from Certified Fire is what I find persuasive.
19 A meeting of the minds exists when the parties have
20 agreed upon the contract's essential terms.

21 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, may I make another
22 suggestion? If you look at the second sentence of
23 13.7, it reads, "However, contractual intent is
24 determined by the objective meanings of the words and
25 conduct of the parties under the circumstances."

1 And it goes on. I would suggest that what
2 actually might remove concerns is if we remove the
3 words "words and." The fact that conduct is actually
4 referred in this pattern instruction suggests that it
5 was intended to be used in a contract that is formed
6 through conduct and not through words. I think if we
7 remove "words," we actually have potentially something
8 that is more focused on implied-in-fact contract.

9 THE COURT: And the response, please? That
10 makes sense to me.

11 MR. McMANIS: I think if we are referring to
12 conduct, it is -- it's certainly closer, but it does
13 sort of seem to abbreviate what's being said in 13.11
14 as to, you know, the parties' intent to contract being
15 inferred from conduct.

16 THE COURT: I think we give 13.7 and delete
17 the words "words and" from 13.7.

18 Let's go over to 9.

19 MR. PORTNOI: 13.8. Again, this is largely
20 an attempt to pull from 13.8, which is immediately
21 afterwards. And I think that there's some things, as
22 well, here that make clear -- this is consideration is
23 an element for both an express contract and
24 implied-in-fact contract. Consideration is essential.

25 And, in fact, there is language in here that

1 is favorable to an implied-in-fact contract. For
2 instance, after the number list it has the language,
3 "Consideration may be found anywhere in the transaction
4 whether or not it is spelled out in writing as
5 consideration."

6 So that suggests that this applies regardless
7 of whether there is consideration. There is bracketed
8 language, which, therefore, would be considered
9 optional by the authors of the pattern. I would
10 suggest that that does apply in this case and is inside
11 defendants' proposal. That is because that language
12 refers to a benefit confirmed or detriment incurred in
13 the past. It is not adequate consideration. One of
14 defendants' theories in the case -- and again --

15 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, Mr. Portnoi.

16 MR. PORTNOI: Oh, I'm so sorry.

17 The bracketed language --

18 THE COURT: Slow down.

19 MR. PORTNOI: Yes. The bracketed language is
20 talking about past consideration. That's an argument
21 that defendants are entitled to make to the jury, that
22 the fact that, you know, there's a suggestion that a
23 contract was proposed. The implied-in-fact contract is
24 proposed when plaintiffs bill defendants. By the time
25 plaintiffs have billed defendants, any consideration in

1 terms of treating a patient is in the past.

2 Again, none of this is a directed verdict or
3 a suggestion that by giving this instruction this means
4 plaintiffs cannot prevail. It's simply a factual issue
5 that the jury is going to have to consider thinking
6 about all the circumstances in terms of whether a
7 contract was formed.

8 MR. McMANIS: Your Honor, what I would say is
9 I think it is actually, in effect, an effort to sort of
10 push toward a directed verdict on that. And maybe the
11 fact that that had to be, sort of, pushback on that, I
12 think, illustrates it. Because what it sounds like is
13 intended to be argued from this instruction is because
14 you have to perform -- you have to treat the patient
15 before you can get paid, you necessarily cannot have
16 consideration under this instruction. And it sounds
17 like the argument that I'm hearing, which would
18 effectively be a directed verdict. So that would be my
19 response to the bracketed language.

20 I also think, consistent, perhaps, with some
21 of the prior rulings that we just went through, is that
22 considering only the outward expression of the
23 intention of the parties may seem to limit it a little
24 bit beyond just the conduct, which has been, you know,
25 the language that has been used in the prior two

1 instructions. So I would add that.

2 I don't know, Pat, if you have anything else
3 to add to that.

4 MS. LUNDVALL: Well, I guess, to bring this
5 argument home, what you are looking at in the very last
6 paragraph is that there's -- they want to argue that
7 the plaintiffs had a duty and an obligation to treat
8 all patients pursuant to EMTALA. So the mere fact that
9 we had a duty to treat patients pursuant to EMTALA,
10 that means that the treatment of those patients can't
11 be the conduct, the consideration. That's their
12 argument.

13 And what they want to say is that in the
14 event that since we already have that duty and that
15 obligation, then we have no contract. And that is a
16 directed verdict.

17 THE COURT: I'm going to sustain the
18 plaintiffs' objection to the proposed jury instruction.
19 Let's direct right back to 13.8. Exactly the last two
20 paragraphs then we're talking about?

21 MR. PORTNOI: Well, the last paragraph is the
22 bracketed language to which I understood --

23 THE COURT: They're also part of the
24 paragraph above it or did I misunderstand that?

25 MR. McMANIS: No. That's right, Your Honor.

1 MR. PORTNOI: I would suggest that if that's
2 the case, then, nonetheless, the paragraph that begins
3 "in determining whether" is still important to how a
4 contract works. It may need some phraseology to ensure
5 the jury is not overly focused on expression. So maybe
6 something like "the outward conduct of the parties" as
7 opposed to "the outward expression of the intention of
8 the parties."

9 What this is trying to target is that the
10 consideration needs to have objective measures that the
11 other side would be able to see or hear, as opposed to
12 something that is internal or subjective.

13 MR. McMANIS: Just to understand, were you
14 suggesting "must consider only the conduct of the
15 parties"?

16 MR. PORTNOI: The outward conduct of the
17 parties.

18 MS. LUNDVALL: I guess what I'm trying to do
19 is figure out what is internal conduct.

20 MR. PORTNOI: What outward expression and
21 outward conduct, what that's intended to mean is the
22 internal emails, for instance, between one employee of
23 plaintiffs to another employee of plaintiffs, or
24 conduct that is only something that is happening there,
25 that doesn't create consideration. It needs to be

1 evidenced by the course of conduct between the parties.

2 MR. McMANIS: I think there is certainly
3 conduct. Whether that's expressed internally or to
4 another party, that is reflective of whether or not
5 there was intent to contract based on the conduct of
6 the parties.

7 THE COURT: So I'm just going to say 13.8 can
8 be given. The last paragraph that's bracketed goes
9 out. And the paragraph above it is revised to
10 "determining whether there was a bargain for exchange,
11 you must consider only the conduct of the parties."

12 Did you have something for the record?

13 MR. PORTNOI: No. I would still prefer our
14 proposed instruction, but I thank Your Honor for the
15 resolution.

16 THE COURT: Let's go over to 10.

17 MR. PORTNOI: On 10, Your Honor, this is
18 another place where I just noticed an error, and I
19 apologize. This is, I will represent, a --

20 THE COURT: I am certain that it's only an
21 error so you don't need to apologize.

22 MR. PORTNOI: This is, actually, a
23 word-for-word unmodified of 13.29, not 13.8, and, for
24 that reason, you don't have 13.29 behind it. I'm
25 looking at 13.29, and it is identical. And Mr. Stanton

1 next to me has emailed Ms. Lundvall 13.29 so she's able
2 to see it at the same time.

3 THE COURT: Where would I find that?

4 MR. SMITH: It is -- the defense proposed
5 instruction at tab 10 is a faithful -- is, faithfully,
6 just 13.29 unmodified. I just don't have that 13.29
7 handy. I think Mr. Polsenberg is going to come around
8 to give you this.

9 THE COURT: Great. Thank you.

10 MR. POLSENBERG: Thank you, Your Honor.

11 THE COURT: The plaintiffs will have this as
12 well?

13 MR. McMANIS: Yes, I have a copy, Your Honor.

14 MS. LUNDVALL: So what I'm trying to figure
15 out is that, based upon the multiple emails I have
16 here, are we talking about a pattern that is labeled
17 "Failure of Consideration?"

18 MR. PORTNOI: Yes.

19 MS. LUNDVALL: How has it been modified by
20 13.8?

21 MR. PORTNOI: It has not been. That was
22 where the error was, Pat, is it is actually 13.29.
23 It's an unmodified 13.29. And Collin has emailed you
24 13.29. And we've given a copy of 13.29 to the Judge.

25 THE COURT: Given the fact that these are ER

1 doctors that had to do this work, I don't know why a
2 lot of this is necessary.

3 MR. PORTNOI: What's necessary about this,
4 Your Honor, is an issue that the jury has to find for
5 the contract claim, also for the unjust enrichment
6 claim is did the defendants receive a benefit or did we
7 receive the consideration or did patients receive the
8 consideration. That's a factual issue in the case.

9 MS. LUNDVALL: Well, what the suggestion is,
10 is that somehow by treating patients, that that is not
11 a benefit or a consideration then to the insurance
12 company or to the third-party administrator. That's
13 what the argument is driving at.

14 MR. PORTNOI: Then it's a factual issue that
15 remains in the case.

16 THE COURT: All right. I don't have a
17 problem with giving an unmodified 13.8.

18 MR. PORTNOI: 13.29, due to our error.

19 THE COURT: 13.29. Sorry. Unmodified.

20 Does that take us to 10?

21 MR. McMANIS: Can I make one point,
22 Your Honor, about 13.29?

23 THE COURT: Yes. Of course.

24 MR. McMANIS: I do think the instruction
25 refers to consideration specified in the contract.

1 And, obviously, when you're talking about an
2 implied-in-fact contract, there's not -- there may not
3 be something that's, sort of, specified in that same
4 sense. And so I don't know that this, sort of, leaves
5 open the idea that unless there is something in writing
6 that specifies that consideration, even if the other
7 instructions refer to conduct, I think it does create
8 problems there.

9 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, it makes sense in
10 that case to strike the word "specified."

11 THE COURT: I see the point. Yeah,
12 definitely have to strike "specified" from 13.29.

13 MR. McMANIS: So maybe it's just, "received
14 in consideration agreed upon by the parties."

15 MR. POLSENBERG: Or "received in
16 consideration, paren, if no consideration is specified,
17 closed paren, agreed upon by the parties."

18 THE COURT: I like Dan's suggestion. So
19 let's --

20 MS. LUNDVALL: Dan, can you repeat the
21 suggestion.

22 THE COURT: He just got a call from Jane.
23 He's going down to let her in the building so we'll
24 have to just wait for a minute.

25 MS. LUNDVALL: Okay. Absolutely.

1 THE COURT: Can we go off the record for a
2 minute.

3 (Discussion held off the record.)

4 THE COURT: Let's go back over then to
5 tab 10. We talked about 13.29.

6 Dan, if you'd do your proposed language.

7 MR. POLSENBERG: And I talked to Dimitri.
8 And he thinks I'm using too many words and that Jason's
9 version, which is why we were talking about struck and
10 weigh, Jason's version works. So it would just be,
11 "did not receive the consideration agreed by the
12 parties."

13 MS. ROBINSON: So I guess my response to this
14 one is, what is the theory by which consideration
15 failed?

16 MR. PORTNOI: Well, as we discussed before,
17 the factual issue is not that here the consideration
18 failed. It's that the contract can't be enforced
19 against a party who proves that the party did not
20 receive the consideration. So the factual issue for
21 the jury is whether consideration was received by the
22 defendants or whether consideration was only received
23 by patients.

24 MS. ROBINSON: So since we allege that the
25 consideration provided was not just provision of

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1 services to United's patients, but also not balance
2 billing United's patients, which United's witnesses
3 have conceded is a benefit. And, also, providing -- or
4 submitting claims in the manner which United requires,
5 i.e., submitting clean claims electronically. What
6 theory there is that the consideration failed? Because
7 I don't think there's a factual dispute about --

8 MR. PORTNOI: I disagree. I think there is a
9 factual dispute. For instance, there's only a
10 statement of a promise not to balance bill the member,
11 not members. And that was in the email sent to only
12 one, or maybe two, of the defendants.

13 So there's a -- on all of those issues of
14 consideration, those are factual issues. There's been
15 no directed verdict that consideration has been
16 established. It is a factual issue for the jury that I
17 don't think we can take away from the jury.

18 MS. ROBINSON: Has there been any evidence of
19 a member in this case with the claims in this case
20 being balance billed?

21 MR. PORTNOI: There is evidence, for
22 instance, from, I believe, Ms. Paradise that sometimes
23 TeamHealth balance bills.

24 MS. ROBINSON: But has there been any
25 evidence of any claims in this case being balance

1 billed?

2 MR. PORTNOI: Again, also, not balance
3 billing. It would not be United that would pay in the
4 event of balance billing. It would be the patients
5 paying in the event of balance billing. So that also
6 just further invokes the possibility that the jury can
7 find based on the fact that it was not the defendants
8 who received the consideration or the benefit, that it
9 was the patients.

10 MS. ROBINSON: And I don't mean to beat a
11 dead horse, but, to me, what you're saying is there was
12 no consideration, not that there was an agreement what
13 the consideration would be and the consideration was
14 not provided.

15 MR. PORTNOI: Well, what I'm saying is that
16 it's possible, based on this instruction, that the jury
17 could find that the contract is being enforced against
18 a party who proves they did not receive the
19 consideration agreed upon by the parties in exchange
20 for the promise of performance. I'm saying precisely
21 that it's possible, not certain, possible, that the
22 jury could find this precise language was factually the
23 case.

24 MS. ROBINSON: I think -- and then I'll stop
25 arguing. But just my response to that is that it has

1 to be more than a possibility. There has to be
2 evidence. And I just don't think there's been any
3 evidence that the consideration was not provided.

4 MR. PORTNOI: I think there is evidence that,
5 throughout, that inherently in this case there's
6 patients who received care, there's patients who
7 received the benefit of not receiving balance bills.

8 THE COURT: So I'll overrule the plaintiffs'
9 objection. We'll give Jason's version of 13.29.

10 Let's go to tab 11.

11 MR. PORTNOI: So 11. When we start with --
12 11 starts with 13.13. It has a modification that I
13 think is on an issue that Your Honor has already ruled,
14 which is, in the middle there is language that -- the
15 third paragraph of defendants' proposed is "Specific
16 price for services to be paid is a material term that
17 must be agreed upon by the parties."

18 I think Your Honor has ruled on language like
19 this before, but I will, you know, to make a record, I
20 will not concede that that ought not be there. And,
21 instead, if Your Honor rules against including that
22 language, I would suggest that it is 13.13 that we
23 would focus on as the model has something that is
24 applicable in this case in terms of an element of any
25 contract is sufficient certainty that the terms are

1 knowable. Nothing about this applies only to express
2 contracts. This is simply -- implements the
3 requirement that there be an ascertainable agreement
4 and a meeting of the minds on all material terms.

5 MS. ROBINSON: Sorry. I'm just looking. So
6 I hope I didn't miss anything here. I think that we
7 would --

8 I'm sorry, were you going to say something,
9 Pat?

10 MS. LUNDVALL: The one thing I think that
11 we're going to underscore here is the fact that this is
12 an issue dealing with the certainty on price that the
13 Court has already ruled on in the Rule 50 motion. I'm
14 certain that you're not going to ask the Court to
15 contradict yourself in the context then of the
16 submission of this jury instruction.

17 MR. PORTNOI: Absolutely not. And, in fact,
18 I believe that this instruction expresses the theory of
19 plaintiffs' case. It says, "However, if an essential
20 term is uncertain but the contract provides a means or
21 formula by which the essential term can be determined
22 or the parties per performance has rendered the
23 uncertain term definite and certain, then the contract
24 becomes enforceable."

25 THE COURT: I have a problem with giving this

1 at all because I don't see it's applicable to the
2 implied-in-fact contract. So the ball is in your
3 court, Mr. Portnoi.

4 MR. PORTNOI: I'll just say I believe it is
5 applicable. And that certainty -- a contract's meaning
6 has to provide something that the parties can target
7 for a contract. But, with that, I'll leave that being
8 my record.

9 THE COURT: We will not give No. 11.

10 Let's go to 12.

11 MR. PORTNOI: So with 12, we made another
12 error, which is that 12 is based on 13.37, which is,
13 obviously, not in the binder. I'm going to ask
14 Mr. Polsenberg if he could loan 13.37 to Your Honor.

15 And we've emailed 13.37 to plaintiffs so it's
16 coming to you momentarily.

17 MS. ROBINSON: Should we just wait until
18 that's --

19 THE COURT: Yeah, let's wait just a second.

20 MS. ROBINSON: No problem. I'll just take
21 another sip of water.

22 MR. POLSENBERG: Time of performance.

23 MR. PORTNOI: Time of performance.

24 Your Honor, so 13.29, again, this is a pattern
25 instruction, which we would request be given

1 unmodified. We do believe that it is Nevada law that
2 time of performance -- that a contract cannot be formed
3 as a perpetual obligation of the parties. And there's
4 been no -- because that is an issue on which we have a
5 factual dispute in terms of what is the time of
6 whatever implied-in-fact contract has been agreed to
7 and how long it will last, we do believe this is a
8 correct statement of the law to which we are entitled
9 to a simply unmodified pattern instruction.

10 MS. LUNDVALL: The one thing, as far as to
11 address on this particular point, Mr. Portnoi, is that
12 this pattern suggests that somehow that there's a
13 single contract that's at issue. Whereas, in our
14 circumstance, you actually have a series of contracts
15 that are at issue for each time that a patient comes in
16 for performance. And so the concern that you have
17 about the perpetual nature is not based upon the theory
18 of the case.

19 MS. ROBINSON: I would also just respond that
20 this instruction is -- the language of this instruction
21 is targeted to an express contract. Talks about
22 specifying a time, the language of the contract, and
23 enforced according to its terms. This is just directed
24 towards an express contract.

25 MR. PORTNOI: May I have a moment,

1 Your Honor?

2 THE COURT: Please.

3 MR. PORTNOI: So, Your Honor, plaintiffs --
4 to respond to Ms. Lundvall, plaintiffs' proposed 13.0
5 reads, "Plaintiffs claim that they entered into an
6 implied contract with defendants."

7 This is at tab 3. It's always been the
8 theory of the case, it's the theory of the case in
9 plaintiffs' own words, that there is an implied-in-fact
10 contract, not many implied-in-fact contracts. I think
11 if we were to look through plaintiffs' submitted jury
12 instructions, every jury instruction would refer to
13 contract in the singular.

14 MS. ROBINSON: I think that we can proceed
15 from that premise and still this instruction does not
16 apply because, A, it's targeted to express contracts,
17 and, B, there's not really any dispute regarding the
18 time of performance in this case.

19 THE COURT: Is it relevant to any of the
20 claims of the plaintiff?

21 MS. ROBINSON: The time of performance?

22 MR. McMANIS: I don't think so. And I don't
23 think there's any evidence that there was any untimely
24 performance alleged by the defendants as a basis for,
25 you know, avoiding any of the claims. So I just don't

1 think there's an evidentiary basis for the instruction.

2 MS. ROBINSON: Then I would just also add
3 that there's not really an allegation that we've
4 hoisted a perpetual contract. Our patients, their
5 insureds come to us. And there's never really been any
6 suggestion that there would be a time when they would
7 not have to pay some amount for the care of those
8 patients. I don't think there's a dispute about that.

9 THE COURT: So I'm going to sustain the
10 plaintiffs' objection. 12 will not be given.

11 Go to 13.

12 MR. PORTNOI: On 13, this is the defense
13 failure of condition precedent. Your Honor may recall
14 that there are about -- there are, I believe, 445
15 claims in this case where defendants say that the
16 claims were not submitted to any defendant in this
17 case. They were submitted to other insurance
18 companies. Many times they are submitted to, for
19 instance, UnitedHealthcare North Carolina, other unit
20 entities. That occurs because a United member who
21 lives in North Carolina comes to Nevada, drinks too
22 much, winds up in the emergency room. Those are not
23 our insureds and we're not obligated --

24 THE COURT: That happens here?

25 MR. PORTNOI: And for some of them, we

1 believe they are simply, in error they were sent to
2 Aetna. They're just not our insureds. They're not
3 even insureds of our affiliates. So the condition
4 precedent here is that any claim has ever been made.

5 As you heard Ms. Robinson say earlier, one of
6 the obligations that plaintiffs agree to was to submit
7 clean claims. On these 445 claims, we do not believe
8 the claims are clean. And so, because they are not, in
9 Ms. Robinson's words, clean claims, the condition
10 precedent has not arisen for those 445 claims.

11 MS. ROBINSON: I guess I just wouldn't have
12 thought of that as a condition precedent. That would
13 just simply be something that was not between the
14 parties. So I don't see that as a condition precedent.
15 I just think injecting a condition precedent here is
16 confusing to the jury.

17 THE COURT: I think it's confusing, too. I'm
18 going to decline to give it. And please make a record,
19 Mr. Portnoi.

20 MR. PORTNOI: Well, Your Honor, I would just
21 point out that what is happening at this point is you
22 are issuing judgment against us on 445 claims. We have
23 a defense. They say that they had an obligation to
24 submit clean claims. They did not submit these clean
25 claims. This is directed verdict. And they have not

1 submitted --

2 MS. LUNDVALL: Respectfully, this is not
3 directing a verdict. It's preserving the opportunity
4 to suggest that if at the conclusion of the trial that
5 there is not evidence of all of the claims that are in
6 our claims dispute, that damages should be reduced.
7 And they preserved that argument as far as in a damage
8 calculation. So it's not directing a verdict against
9 the defendants.

10 THE COURT: It is not a directed verdict.

11 MR. PORTNOI: It is a directed verdict on our
12 defense of failure of condition precedent. That is a
13 defense that is in our answer. That is a defense that
14 is in our joint pretrial memorandum. It's been --

15 THE COURT: I just don't see it as relevant
16 to the implied-in-fact contract. And I think your
17 defense is absolutely intact because you're going to
18 ask for an offset if the jury thinks there's liability.

19 MR. PORTNOI: Again, Your Honor, the record
20 is made.

21 THE COURT: Thank you. Let's go over to 14.

22 MS. ROBINSON: Did you want to go ahead --
23 accord and satisfaction. I'm sorry. I have the
24 wrong --

25 THE COURT: I have 14 being Unfair Insurance

1 Practices.

2 MS. ROBINSON: Sorry. I have not been able
3 to catch up with the -- I did not have a printer.

4 THE COURT: Let me know when you're ready.

5 MS. ROBINSON: The one that says Nevada
6 Unfair Insurances Act definition.

7 THE COURT: Right.

8 MS. ROBINSON: Okay.

9 THE COURT: Mr. Portnoi.

10 MR. PORTNOI: This is a place where we have
11 competing instructions in terms of the elements. I
12 think that, if you see, there are two instructions for
13 plaintiffs here. We received, actually, the second
14 instruction after the binders were printed so we didn't
15 necessarily know where to put it, but we wanted to make
16 sure it was in front of Your Honor.

17 It's our position, if you go to the third
18 page, the model instruction only refers to a few
19 elements. We believe that in a case as complex as this
20 there actually are a number of factual elements that
21 have not been established that we believe the jury is
22 entitled to establish. Again, one of those is the
23 statute. Again, to some extent, this is record making.
24 But that the defendant they're finding against is an
25 insurer.

1 Ms. Lundvall may suggest that I am asking you
2 to reverse your directed verdict motion, but,
3 obviously, your directed verdict motion simply would
4 have found that the factual element was, as a matter of
5 law, not established. Here we are looking to say that
6 the element is a factual issue for the jury.

7 In plaintiffs' trial brief on this issue,
8 they actually say that it is not a problem because they
9 can actually submit evidence that every defendant is an
10 insurer or, rather, they have submitted evidence that
11 every defendant is an insurer. So that turns it into a
12 factual issue for the jury, as opposed to one that
13 would be resolved in the directed verdict motion.

14 The second element is that the plaintiff is
15 an insured. Again, the statute provides liability for
16 an insurer against -- an insurer against its insured.

17 Again, with respect to the issue of a
18 contract, I would also just remind Your Honor again
19 that plaintiffs have alleged throughout that they are
20 basing this claim on contract. This is going back to
21 Your Honor's order on the motion to dismiss, which held
22 that the Nevada Unfair Claims Practices Act claim could
23 go forward because it was based on a contract.

24 So we do also believe as a matter of element
25 3, that that is present. I think that 4 and 6 are in

1 the model. 5, I think, is based on 686A.270, which
2 based on plaintiffs' amended instruction, I think they
3 now -- which is on the page before -- they now agree
4 that this is an element within here.

5 And then we also added -- because it is in
6 the model that the violation was a substantial factor
7 in causing damages, we added a model instruction for
8 substantial factor. Because the jury, in most cases by
9 this point in an instruction, a jury would have been
10 instructed on what substantial factor is probably three
11 or four times. So it wasn't included in the model, but
12 we think it's important for the jury to know what a
13 substantial factor is.

14 This is, obviously, more than what is in the
15 pattern, but there are more issues present than the
16 pattern contemplates in an issue as novel and complex
17 as this one.

18 THE COURT: I have no problem giving 11.20,
19 but -- I need to hear the argument of plaintiff, but
20 the Unfair Claims Practices Act definition as requested
21 by the defendant is overly broad. So let me hear the
22 objection.

23 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Your Honor. The
24 first three points about insurer, insured, and
25 implied-in-fact contract have already been -- we've

1 submitted trial briefs on it. We've also argued it
2 during directed verdict. And as far as the Unfair
3 Insurance Practices Act, that is defined later so it
4 doesn't need to be repeated here. Or -- sorry, that is
5 part of the form instruction.

6 As far as the officer or director or
7 department head, we have submitted a competing
8 instruction for their following instruction so that is
9 not an issue. It is in the statute so that's fine.

10 And then substantial factor, I mean, I
11 actually think that a jury can understand what that
12 means. I don't think they need a negligence definition
13 for that. So I think that the form instruction is fine
14 the way it is.

15 THE COURT: And for the record, please?

16 MR. PORTNOI: Well, for the record,
17 obviously, generally, when substantial factor is used
18 in an instruction, we instruct on what that means. And
19 I think that there is a reason for that. I think if we
20 want to look at -- I think it may make sense to defer
21 the issue of how to do officer, director, or department
22 head as we get to a subsequent tab where we'll be able
23 to compare that better.

24 But I do, again, for the record, I think that
25 the insurer, insured, insurance contract, those are

1 elements of the statute that if the jury is not
2 instructed on, then a verdict will be -- has the risk
3 of being issued without the jury finding on all of the
4 legal elements.

5 THE COURT: 14, pattern 11.20 will be
6 given --

7 MR. POLSENBERG: Your Honor, can I raise one
8 point?

9 THE COURT: Certainly.

10 MR. POLSENBERG: The correct name for the
11 statute is the Unfair Claims Practices Act. That's
12 what it's been called in all of the opinions, Wohlers
13 v. Bartgis.

14 MS. ROBINSON: The form calls it the Unfair
15 Insurance Practices Act.

16 MR. POLSENBERG: The form is wrong. I argued
17 Wohlers v. Bartgis. I argued Federal Insurance. There
18 the Supreme Court even called it the UCPA. There's no
19 case, I think, where they call it the Insurance
20 Practices Act. In fact, the title, the chapter,
21 rather, is Trade Practices and Frauds. And it's broken
22 down into sections. 686A.310 falls under the Claims
23 section, which is why the Supreme Court has always
24 called it the Unfair Claims Practices Act.

25 THE COURT: So we'll change 11.20 to call it

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1 the Unfair Claims Practices instruction.

2 MR. POLSENBERG: Thank you, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: 15.

4 MS. ROBINSON: Is this the department head?

5 THE COURT: Yeah. Let's pivot over to the
6 objection.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Sorry. Just want to make sure
8 I'm looking at the right one here.

9 MR. PORTNOI: So 15, this is a separate
10 instruction instructing the jury that an insurer is an
11 element, and giving a statutory definition of what an
12 insurer is. And then, subsequently, instructing the
13 jury in the case that Mr. Polsenberg just mentioned,
14 Albert G. Wohlers, that clear black letter law, a
15 third-party administrator is not an insurer, and,
16 therefore, not subject to the act.

17 MS. LUNDVALL: Once, again, Mr. Portnoi,
18 you're trying to argue against an issue that was
19 already decided by the Court through the context of
20 your Rule 50 motion.

21 MR. PORTNOI: In the Rule 50 motion, we were,
22 as Ms. Lundvall indicated, testing whether something
23 could be found as a matter of law against the
24 plaintiffs. In this case we are talking about a matter
25 of fact. And, again, in plaintiffs' trial brief, they

1 have indicated that this is a factual issue and
2 something that the jury can find against on the basis
3 of fact.

4 MS. ROBINSON: The definition here is
5 designed to exclude TPAs. And that's the issue that we
6 have.

7 MR. PORTNOI: The definition here is --
8 NRS 686A.520 is the definition of an insurer under
9 Nevada law, and, as such, it is unmodified. It is not
10 designed to explain TPAs. We did not design it. We
11 quoted it.

12 MS. ROBINSON: Nonetheless, the fundamental
13 issue --

14 I'm sorry. Go ahead, Ms. Lundvall.

15 MS. LUNDVALL: But what you argued though in
16 the context of your Rule 50 motion is that there was no
17 actionable claim against the TPAs. And the Court had
18 already issued a decision on that. And now what you
19 want to suggest is that somehow that the jury can, in
20 essence, overturn this Judge.

21 THE COURT: I don't see that this 15 can be
22 given because it would basically direct a verdict to
23 the defendant and it's inconsistent with my prior
24 ruling. If, certainly, my ruling was incorrect, then
25 the Supreme Court will remand the case.

1 So let's go over to 16.

2 MR. PORTNOI: I think 16 may also be --
3 following along the same line, may also be a
4 record-making exercise here. But, again, we believe an
5 insurer has a cause of action as a matter of fact.
6 We've defined -- sorry -- that an insured has a cause
7 of action. And, as a result, we would argue that the
8 jury has to find as a matter of fact that each
9 plaintiff is an insured covered by a policy of
10 insurance issued in this state by an insurer defendant.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Your Honor, I believe this has
12 already been argued extensively.

13 THE COURT: Okay. So 15 will not be given.
14 That was 16. Okay.

15 Are we on 17 now?

16 MR. PORTNOI: Yes.

17 MS. ROBINSON: Yes.

18 MR. PORTNOI: Here in 17, we have competing
19 instructions. And I think that the main substantive
20 difference is that defendants have -- well, defendants
21 opened with the "engaging in" language that is in the
22 model 11.21. And then used E, which is the only
23 subsection I think we all agree that is at issue here.
24 And then, of course, defendants added a sentence which
25 we believe to be correct in the law and something that

1 ought to be sent to the jury, which is, based on the
2 case law and based on the plain language of the statute
3 "where the amount of additional liability is a subject
4 upon which reasonable minds could disagree, the
5 liability of the insurer is not reasonably clear."

6 This is to point out that the fact that that
7 liability has not become reasonably clear is a factual
8 element that the jury is going to have to find. And it
9 is plaintiffs' burden to show that the liability of the
10 insurer has become reasonably clear.

11 MS. ROBINSON: So the reason that I -- I
12 guess, two objections to this. The first is, of
13 course -- and I think we have identical first
14 sentences, which are basically pulled from the form
15 instruction so the entire debate is on the second
16 paragraph.

17 The issue here is that I think the way that
18 this is phrased -- well, first of all, I don't think it
19 belongs. It's not in the form. And I think that it's
20 based on cases that tend to -- that are very different
21 from this one. This is a situation where you have,
22 like, a casualty insurance and there's, you know, a
23 debate about how much coverage should be given for the
24 loss. And the insured sues believing that there should
25 have been more coverage provided for a specific loss.

1 What we are arguing here is that there's been
2 a deliberate campaign to set unreasonably low prices
3 or, excuse me, reimbursement rates. And the language
4 here actually suggests that if the jury believes that
5 we should -- if the jury believes that reasonable minds
6 could differ about whether or not we should get our
7 billed charges or we should get 90 percent of our
8 billed charges, then liability is not reasonably clear
9 even though, in fact, what we were getting was a tiny
10 fraction of our billed charges, if that makes sense.

11 THE COURT: What seems fair to me is to take
12 11.21 and put in the first sentence and then E and L.
13 They seem to be the applicable.

14 MR. PORTNOI: Did you say L?

15 THE COURT: L.

16 MR. PORTNOI: L is not alleged in this case,
17 Your Honor. Plaintiffs are pursuing only E.

18 THE COURT: Not failing to settle claims
19 promptly? That's right. Hang on. Why did I write
20 that? You're right.

21 MS. ROBINSON: It's E.

22 THE COURT: It's E. It's only E. So that
23 seems appropriate to me. How did the --

24 MS. LUNDVALL: One of the things that maybe
25 the Court could consider is, based upon the evidence in

1 this case, is the applicability though of G.

2 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, only E has been
3 alleged in the second amended complaint. Only E has
4 been alleged in the joint pretrial memorandum, which
5 supersedes the pleading. We are not at a point where
6 we can amend the claims in this case. If we were, we
7 would have to reopen evidence and what we would have
8 had -- defendants have never impliedly or expressly
9 consented to amending the joint pretrial memorandum,
10 which is clear.

11 THE COURT: Is there a response?

12 MS. LUNDVALL: On this particular point, what
13 the Court is permitted to do is to be able to conform
14 the pleadings to the evidence that's been given in this
15 case. And so to the extent we are foreclosed from
16 doing so, I don't understand how it is that we would
17 be.

18 There's been evidence that has been submitted
19 as to what the website was concerning the payment by
20 which out-of-network ER benefits would be paid. And so
21 to suggest that somehow that the amounts we received
22 were less than what those advertising materials were,
23 we could amend our pleadings to conform to that
24 evidence.

25 THE COURT: Is that the reasonable and

1 customary argument?

2 MS. LUNDVALL: Yes.

3 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor --

4 THE COURT: I'm inclined to say that they
5 have put on evidence for the jury to determine.

6 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I apologize for
7 interrupting. At some point, we're going to get into
8 another issue where the plaintiffs that were expressed
9 in their joint pretrial memorandum about the scope of
10 their claims, and now, after they've rested their case
11 and we have, what, one day left of evidence to put on,
12 they're attempting to amend the complaint and amend the
13 joint pretrial memorandum.

14 So just on the point that Ms. Lundvall was
15 making about conforming to amend the pleadings, in the
16 case last year, Yount v. Criswell Radovan, the Supreme
17 Court was very clear about the limitations on
18 conforming to the evidence. And a key component is
19 that there needs to be consent by the other side. And
20 we absolutely have not consented to the trial of these
21 claims that were not defined in their joint pretrial
22 memorandum or in their second amended complaint.

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 MS. LUNDVALL: But on that particular point,
25 it wasn't a consent to the amendment. It was consent

1 to the admission of the evidence on which the amendment
2 was made. And there has been consent to the admission
3 of the evidence. For example, on Exhibit 363, which is
4 the website, there was no objection to the admission of
5 that evidence.

6 MR. PORTNOI: But, Your Honor, we would be
7 able to say -- for instance, 363 does not solicit any
8 kind of business from anyone. And, to be clear, G only
9 relates to written or printed advertising material
10 accompanying or made part of an application. There's
11 been no evidence, and we did not consent to the
12 presentation of evidence, that that website was
13 advertising. We would go back. We would have
14 potentially asked Mr. Haben more questions about
15 whether that was advertising or just simply
16 information. There was no evidence that that website
17 accompanied an application. In fact, it does not
18 accompany an application.

19 So this is the problem when we amend the
20 pleadings is we start to get into, well, maybe this
21 statute kind of fits, maybe it doesn't. Then we get to
22 a place where the parties have been preparing for trial
23 for years. And, in fact, going back just a few days
24 ago when we got new Unfair Claims Practices Act
25 instructions from plaintiffs, it still didn't include

1 G. It simply is the case of, no, we did not consent to
2 presentation of this claim. And if we were to reopen
3 the pleadings and add new claims, we would need
4 substantially more time for trial. We would be grossly
5 prejudiced.

6 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, if I could just add
7 one thing. The point about the specific exhibit, the
8 only way that consent that agreeing to allow evidence
9 in is transformed into an implied consent to a
10 different claim is if the evidence is solely relevant
11 to that un-pleaded claim.

12 But here there's no contention that
13 Exhibit 363 had no relevance to any of the issues in
14 the case except for subsection G. If that had been the
15 case, if you can only say that the only thing that was
16 relevant to was subsection G, then they might have an
17 argument, but that clearly is not the case here, that
18 that evidence is relevant to other issues in the case.

19 THE COURT: I know that you adamantly
20 disagree with this. But the fact that the usual and
21 customary evidence has come in, I think, requires us to
22 get into G.

23 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, we're going to need
24 to recall witnesses because we need to be able to talk
25 to witnesses about whether Exhibit 363 is part of an

1 application. And we're just going to go past
2 Thanksgiving.

3 THE COURT: Written or printed advertising
4 material or made part of an application.

5 MR. PORTNOI: Accompanying or made part of an
6 application. It has to accompany an application or be
7 made part of an application.

8 THE COURT: Is not the website part of their
9 advertising about what services they provide?

10 MR. PORTNOI: No. It can simply be
11 informative. Not everything on the internet for a
12 for-profit company is advertising.

13 Even if that is the case, Your Honor, it is a
14 separate element that has to accompany or be made part
15 of an application. And it has not been -- there's no
16 evidence that it has been made part of an application
17 or that it accompanies an application.

18 THE COURT: I've been persuaded. It will be
19 E.

20 Do you have something for the record?

21 MS. LUNDVALL: The only thing I would offer
22 for the record is that I find it a little bit
23 disingenuous to suggest that you could have a website
24 that informs your insureds how it is that they are
25 going to process their claims, and then suggest somehow

1 that it doesn't apply, and that an insured cannot rely
2 upon that, or anyone else cannot rely upon that.

3 Because that's what the argument is here,
4 that it's okay to put whatever you want on your website
5 that says this is how we're going to process your
6 claims, but when it comes down to brass tax, unless a
7 website is attendant to your application on --

8 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, it's not the
9 argument that --

10 THE COURT: Hang on.

11 MS. LUNDVALL: This seems like this is an
12 issue that the jury could consider. And the argument
13 they're making they could make to the jury in a
14 suggestion that it doesn't apply. But then the jury is
15 entitled to pass upon that reasonableness of such an
16 argument.

17 THE COURT: The reasonable and customary is
18 in the record so you can argue it. But the instruction
19 will be 11.21E.

20 Let's go to 18.

21 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, with 18, I would
22 make a suggestion to you. If you would go back to tab
23 14 and take out the second page there. That will be
24 plaintiffs' competing instruction on this that, I
25 think, it will be easier for you to see the two

1 competing instructions together. Which all of this
2 relates to the issue of whether or not an officer,
3 director, or department head knowingly permitted or had
4 prior knowledge. I think we're now at a point where
5 plaintiffs and defendants agree with that.

6 I think that probably our main disagreement
7 with respect to both instructions is with respect to
8 the last sentence of both instructions. Defendants
9 have proposed "a claims manager is not an officer,
10 director, or department head. Prior knowledge, not
11 after the fact ratification, is required."

12 That is contemplated in many cases. In fact,
13 if you look down, there's a -- there is a citation to
14 Goodrich v. Garrison, and the, quote, claims managers
15 generally do not qualify as department heads, officers,
16 or directors.

17 Looking to the last sentence of plaintiffs'
18 instruction, "A defendant knowingly permitted such act
19 or had prior knowledge thereof if an officer, director,
20 and/or department head of the defendant developed,
21 approved, implemented, and/or authorized policies and
22 procedures for the settlement of claims which claims
23 managers followed."

24 That is not anywhere in any case law.

25 There's a citation below that plaintiffs

036145

036145

1 provided to My Left Foot. And I'd like to tell you
2 what the evidence was in My Left Foot. In My Left
3 Foot, there was a claims manager that addressed the
4 claim. However, there was a declaration and there was
5 a memorandum from a specific director, officer, or
6 department head to that claims manager that said, you
7 have authority to settle this for \$75,000. And then
8 the claims manager, in fact, settled it for \$75,000.

9 There's nothing in there that suggests that
10 general policies or anything of that sort is what is
11 contemplated here. So I would suggest that defendants'
12 instruction is a correct statement of the law; whereas,
13 the last sentence in plaintiffs' instruction is not a
14 correct statement of the law. But it may be that the
15 most sensible thing, ultimately, is to pick the first
16 part of either defendants' or plaintiffs' instruction.

17 MS. ROBINSON: So my response to that is that
18 I'm looking at My Left Foot right now, and as I read
19 it, it says that there is an authority letter that the
20 claims manager had authority to handle any claim less
21 than \$750,000. But that wasn't specifically
22 necessarily directed to a specific claim. It was that
23 he had authority to handle claims of this nature.

24 So point being here that the evidence United
25 has presented is that they have so many claims that

1 these are handled by computer. These are not even
2 handled by individual human beings.

3 So the way that they were handled was through
4 a policy that was developed by these department heads,
5 which we've already argued about during directed
6 verdict whether or not they qualified as department
7 heads or officers.

8 And so there's really no other way that this
9 could be established on these facts. This is not,
10 again, a casualty policy where you have a single loss
11 and there's a great deal of back and forth about that
12 loss. These are hundreds of thousands of very
13 relatively small claims that are handled by computer,
14 set by policies that have been directed by the people
15 who testified in this case.

16 And so that's -- based on My Left Foot, and
17 just, honestly, common sense, that's really the only
18 way that this could be established in facts like this.
19 And we do have the evidence to support it.

20 THE COURT: It makes sense to me to take the
21 language of 686A.270 and to require the parties to
22 conform that second sentence of the plaintiffs'
23 proposed so that it's an accurate statement of Nevada
24 law.

25 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, I just don't think

1 the second sentence -- it conforms with Nevada law if
2 we don't include the second sentence. I think the
3 second sentence is no more than gloss that is not
4 contemplated by any case or the statute.

5 THE COURT: Unfortunately, I don't have the
6 statute with me.

7 MR. SMITH: If you look at either of the two
8 proposed jury instructions, I think both parties
9 faithfully included it in the parenthetical that is in
10 the authority underneath.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Again, it can be a situation
12 where every individual claim has to be approved by a
13 department head or an officer because that literally
14 could not happen in a case of this nature. What has
15 to -- the only way that this makes sense is for the
16 claim to be processed pursuant to a policy that has
17 been approved. And that is consistent with both -- and
18 I think the only case that we have is this, and this is
19 a District Court, a Federal District Court, case.

20 THE COURT: So what we will do then is take
21 686A.270 as proposed in 14, and take out the last
22 sentence.

23 MR. PORTNOI: Just so I'm sure we have our
24 record clear, when you say "as proposed in 14," are you
25 starting with defendants' instruction or plaintiffs'

1 instruction?

2 THE COURT: Plaintiffs' instruction.

3 MR. PORTNOI: Plaintiffs' instruction and
4 striking the last sentence?

5 THE COURT: Yes.

6 MR. PORTNOI: Thank you, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: So we are to 19.

8 MR. PORTNOI: So we have competing
9 instructions. Actually, I think that the second
10 instruction is a replacement that was filed today after
11 the binders were printed so I think that is the
12 operative instruction for plaintiffs.

13 Again, this is a situation, as with unjust
14 enrichment, where there's no pattern instruction for
15 damages with respect to the Unfair Claims Practices
16 Act. Defendants have proposed one that reads, "an
17 insurer is liable to its insured" -- obviously, that
18 might need to be amended -- "for any damages sustained
19 by the insured as a result of the commission of any
20 unfair practice set forth in the prior instruction. An
21 insurer is liable to an insured only for damages that
22 arose from the improper claims handling rather than
23 from the underlying injury."

24 And this is based on case law and from the
25 statute itself, that the statute does not provide

1 damages for the underlying jury. It provides damages
2 usually for consequential harms that are separate and
3 apart from the underlying value of the claims
4 themselves.

5 THE COURT: So page 14 seems reasonable to
6 me. So let me hear --

7 MS. ROBINSON: So let me just make sure I'm
8 looking at the right one. Right. We actually -- so I
9 made an error in that. So the one that you should be
10 looking at that's ours is plaintiffs' second
11 supplemental 5 at the bottom. And I can hand that to
12 you if that's not --

13 THE COURT: I have it. Replaces Instruction
14 4.

15 MS. ROBINSON: The reason I replaced it is
16 because I realized that the evidence that we provided
17 is the allowed amount for the claim and not the paid
18 amount. And so that's the correction there. It's the
19 amount allowed and the amount that was allowed -- the
20 amount that should have been allowed versus the amount
21 that was allowed as opposed to paid. Paid was an
22 inaccurate word.

23 THE COURT: So, that being said, your
24 response, please?

25 MR. PORTNOI: Again, my response is that the

1 additional -- that plaintiffs' instruction is simply
2 incorrect as a matter of Nevada law. That Nevada law
3 explicitly prohibits giving damages of this kind. And
4 that this would simply create duplicative damages of
5 the contract in the unjust enrichment claims, as
6 opposed to what the Unfair Claims Practices Act damages
7 are supposed to be, which is to provide damages that
8 are ripe by the claims handling process as opposed to
9 the underlying injury.

10 THE COURT: Slow. Slow. Slow.

11 So I'll overrule the defendants' objection.
12 The language of plaintiffs' second supp. 5 will be
13 used.

14 MR. PORTNOI: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: And I assume the defendant
16 objects to this?

17 MR. PORTNOI: Yes, Your Honor.

18 THE COURT: Let's hear it.

19 MR. PORTNOI: Again, as I said, plaintiffs'
20 second supp. 5 is an incorrect statement of law.

21 MR. POLSENBERG: Can I interrupt for a
22 second? Judge, we got rid of the part of the rules of
23 civil procedure that say you have to write "rejected"
24 on each proposed instruction. I just need the record
25 to be clearer that you rejected our proposal, not just

1 that you overruled our objection to their proposal.

2 THE COURT: Then someone needs to pull out
3 NRS 686 for me, 686A.

4 MS. ROBINSON: I think they're talking about
5 tab 19.

6 THE COURT: I know.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Oh, sorry.

8 THE COURT: They are.

9 You are saying that you believe it's an
10 incorrect statement of the law?

11 MR. PORTNOI: I believe it's an incorrect
12 statement of the law. It's not based on -- it's not
13 based on something that is expressly textural in
14 686A.310. It's based on the fact that the damages have
15 to arise from our failure to promptly, equitably, and
16 fairly settle the claims after liability had become
17 reasonably clear.

18 Based on the Yusko case, which is, in fact, a
19 Federal District Court case, which is only persuasive,
20 But, nonetheless, that case and others have held that
21 based on the structure of the act and the harms that it
22 is meant to remedy, that liability is limited to those
23 damages that are -- that arise out of the claims
24 handling process itself. And they don't contemplate
25 that you actually get the underlying injury compensated

1 on the basis of the Nevada Unfair Claims Practices Act.
2 Those are usually injuries that are compensated under
3 other claims, here the unjust enrichment and the
4 implied-in-fact contract claims.

5 THE COURT: "The measure of damages for
6 unfair insurance practices is the difference between
7 the amount defendant would have allowed if it had not
8 engaged in the unfair practice in the amount, if any,
9 they did allow."

10 And you claim that's not an accurate
11 representation of Nevada law?

12 MR. PORTNOI: That's correct, Your Honor.
13 What you would have here usually under the Unfair
14 Claims Practices Act --

15 THE COURT: I've brought that up -- a lot of
16 times during the trial, I have brought that statute up.

17 MR. PORTNOI: And the statute does not
18 include anything -- to be fair, the statute does not
19 include textural language that directly supports
20 plaintiffs' instruction or defendants' instruction.

21 THE COURT: I understand your point.

22 MR. PORTNOI: However, the case law --
23 however, there are no cases that support plaintiffs'
24 instruction, which is why there is no authority written
25 there. And there is case law supporting defendants'

1 instruction because the cases that have issued opinions
2 have held that the damages have to be the result of
3 some kind of consequence that comes from the claims
4 handling process and not the underlying injury.

5 THE COURT: All right. Go ahead, please.
6 Make your record. I'm going to reverse my ruling.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. So the Yusko case is a
8 casualty insurance case in which the plaintiff had
9 received the limits of their policy. And so there was
10 no argument by which the claims practices could have
11 affected the outcome of -- you know, they were not
12 entitled to more money under the claims. Their only
13 damages were for, you know -- they were saying, we had
14 damages that weren't covered by our policy, but they
15 had gotten policy limits.

16 What we have here is the nature of the
17 settlement practice is to -- is to set reimbursement
18 rates artificially low as a policy. And so that is the
19 unfair settlement -- that is the unfair practice. And
20 it is exactly that that is causing our injury. This is
21 not a situation where we're saying, there was policy
22 limits that were exhausted and there should have been
23 more.

24 THE COURT: No. When I reread plaintiffs'
25 second supplemental 5, it seems like a direction to the

1 jury to set damages. And that's completely within
2 their discretion if there's a plaintiffs' verdict.

3 MS. ROBINSON: Well, but, Your Honor, what we
4 say is the amount defendant would have allowed for a
5 claim if it had not engaged in the unfair insurance
6 practice. That is up to the jury to decide.

7 THE COURT: You can argue that, but I'm not
8 going to instruct the jury to award damages to you.
9 It's not right.

10 MS. ROBINSON: So if they've already
11 determined that unfair insurance practices had
12 happened, so they're reaching the damages phase, and
13 then they're trying to decide how much damages should
14 be allowed, I don't know that the -- I don't know how
15 you can define damages other than the difference
16 between what their conduct caused.

17 THE COURT: That's a matter of argument
18 though. And, certainly, you have the right to argue.
19 They have the right to argue that there hasn't been any
20 damage. So anything more for the record?

21 MS. ROBINSON: So I guess I just want to know
22 what instruction is going to be given on damages.

23 THE COURT: There isn't going to be one.
24 There could be one, if you find that there has been a
25 breach of the contract, you may award damages

1 accordingly.

2 MR. POLSENBERG: Right. And so my record is
3 clear, and most of these cases are decided by the
4 Federal District Court because they wind up getting
5 removed by the insurance company defendants. But the
6 measure of damages on whether they should have paid
7 more on the claim is a contract issue. What would be
8 the result -- and Dimitri argued that last week. It
9 would be, for example, if it wasn't paid on time, maybe
10 more health treatment would have been engaged in by an
11 insured. Or, in some of the cases, the way they
12 handled the claim caused emotional distress to the
13 insured over and above what would have been covered by
14 the policy. That's what an Unfair Claims Practices Act
15 claim is. And I've been trying to get the Supreme
16 Court to say that for years.

17 In Federal, they just decided, no, the
18 insurance policy issue was decided wrong, and remanded
19 it, and, unfortunately, it settled. Not unfortunate to
20 the parties in the case.

21 So I think it's very important that our
22 instruction is given that makes clear to the jury that
23 this is something different from the contract claim
24 itself.

25 THE COURT: I don't believe that the

1 defendants' proposed is correct. But if there is not a
2 breach of -- if there's not an instruction on damages
3 for breach of contract, I'll consider adding something
4 if it's not adequately in the instructions.

5 MS. ROBINSON: Sorry. For breach of contract
6 or for breach of --

7 THE COURT: For calculation of damages for
8 breaching implied-in-fact contract if you don't have an
9 instruction.

10 MS. ROBINSON: We do.

11 MS. LUNDVALL: If I could offer this, also,
12 for purposes of the record. The argument that's made
13 by Mr. Portnoi suggests that if, in fact, a party
14 brings a claim under this statute, that the only way
15 you can make yourself whole is to also bring a breach
16 of contract claim. And so to the extent that it
17 doesn't require a party to bring two claims, you can
18 bring a single claim so as to be able to make yourself
19 whole and to recover then the benefits that one should
20 have been able to receive.

21 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, it's a statutory
22 claim. It's very narrow. And it's not -- it's --
23 unfortunately, its history started out as a regulatory
24 statute so it was designed to handle, that's why
25 there's so many in that list, very narrow regulatory

1 issues, but then a private right of action was created.
2 So it's not surprising that this one claim for one
3 subsection and one section in the Unfair Claims
4 Practices Act wouldn't make a plaintiff whole, that the
5 plaintiff might be multiple claims. And the fact is,
6 insureds, when they do bring these, they do bring
7 multiple claims. I don't think that there is anything
8 that is surprising about that.

9 THE COURT: Okay. So we've made a record on
10 19. Let's go to 20.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Just to be clear, Your Honor,
12 neither instruction will be given?

13 THE COURT: That's correct.

14 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: So 20.

16 MR. PORTNOI: 20 is the Prompt Pay Act.
17 There is no model instruction on the Prompt Pay Act.
18 Plaintiffs and defendants have proposed different
19 language. The defendants' language on page 36 is
20 designed to very, as faithfully as possible, copy and
21 paste language out of the various statutes.

22 The Prompt Pay Act exists in various parts of
23 the code identically because there may be part of the
24 code that applies to insurers, part of the code that
25 applies to third-party administrators. But it's always

1 the same language in different sections. And those
2 citations are all there.

3 In anticipation that Your Honor would read
4 this instruction and potentially think, even though
5 it's faithful to the statute, it's not crisp, behind
6 this we have included a shorter version that we think
7 does also embody -- Mr. Smith helped draft this earlier
8 today.

9 MR. SMITH: It's a modification to
10 plaintiffs' version.

11 MR. PORTNOI: Yes. We tried to start with
12 plaintiffs' version, but, actually, included the
13 subsequent elements of the claim that are in the
14 statute.

15 MS. ROBINSON: So I would respond that the
16 statutes say that an administrator shall not pay only
17 part of a claim that has been approved and is fully
18 payable. And so here it says -- their proposed
19 instruction suggests that the defendant needs to
20 approve the full amount of the claim and not pay it.
21 That's not accurate under the statute.

22 THE COURT: Correct.

23 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, I disagree. That
24 is what the statute contemplates.

25 THE COURT: What happened is they approved

1 the claim, but then the reimbursement rate was at
2 issue.

3 MR. PORTNOI: Because this is a promptness
4 statute. This is not a statute about the underlying
5 claims practices. That's for the Claims Practices Act.
6 This is the Prompt Pay Act. So it really only focuses
7 on timing.

8 THE COURT: Okay. I believe that the
9 plaintiffs' is adequate as presented on page 15.

10 MR. PORTNOI: And to make a record --

11 MS. LUNDVALL: But most important on this is
12 that there is all of this information about the failure
13 to exhaust administrative remedies. That was an issue,
14 at least under the materials that you just sent to me,
15 is that all that language was there. Have you taken it
16 out?

17 MS. ROBINSON: Ms. Lundvall, the Judge has
18 ruled that our instruction will be given.

19 MS. LUNDVALL: I apologize.

20 MR. PORTNOI: Just so that I can make a
21 record. On the last version where we say "the
22 defendant approved the full amount of the claim," we
23 just ask if the Court would consider that should be
24 read, "the defendant approved the claim."

25 So we still had the three elements. A claim

1 is fully payable. This is under the last instruction
2 in this tab. A claim where there are three bullets. A
3 claim was fully payable. Defendant approved the claim.
4 And the defendant fully paid the claim within 30 days.
5 We can change from "full approval" to "approval."
6 There are multiple elements to this, statute and
7 instructing the jury on this element, which could
8 create a clearer record.

9 THE COURT: And the response, please, when
10 you're ready.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Yeah. Ours is an accurate
12 statement of the law. And if they -- if Mr. Portnoi is
13 alluding to the disputed claims, then they didn't
14 approve the claim. So our claim would fail under our
15 statement of the law. So I don't think there's an
16 issue.

17 MR. PORTNOI: Again, Your Honor, there are
18 445 claims that we do not concede that we approved.

19 THE COURT: I'm not requiring you to by
20 giving this instruction. I'm not limiting you. But I
21 may have cut you off.

22 MR. PORTNOI: Nope. I made the record. So
23 just so we have the record that you have rejected both
24 versions --

25 THE COURT: That's correct.

1 MR. PORTNOI: -- of our instruction,
2 including the subsequent oral amendment that I just
3 made.

4 THE COURT: Yes. Let's go to 21. It's
5 already 5:00 o'clock.

6 MR. PORTNOI: We have 34 total instructions,
7 and we're at 21.

8 THE COURT: Let's take a five-minute recess
9 for my personal comfort.

10 MR. PORTNOI: Yes, ma'am. Absolutely.

11 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

12 THE COURT: I can give you a tentative ruling
13 on 21 that I would not give the instruction.

14 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, fully exhausted
15 administrative remedies, that's one of our preserved
16 affirmative defenses. There's been no motion for
17 summary judgment on it, no motion for directed verdict.
18 We recognize that there's not a model instruction for a
19 failure to exhaust administrative remedies. So we do
20 believe this is a correct statement of the law. And
21 that exhaustion is a -- to make a prima facie case
22 under the Prompt Pay Act, plaintiffs have to show they
23 exhausted administrative remedies.

24 THE COURT: Did you have anything further?
25 I'm going to reject to give No. 21, as I don't think

1 it's applicable at the trial level. 22.

2 MR. PORTNOI: 22 is -- it's just our opening
3 list of affirmative defenses. I can't recall if
4 there's a -- it doesn't say it's based on a model. I
5 have some recollection that it was, but it may not be.
6 This is just our introduction as we shift from
7 plaintiffs' case to defendants' case. Obviously, we'll
8 have to amend the bulleted items because it's likely
9 that some of these affirmative defenses, as we get to
10 the instructions, will not be given.

11 MS. ROBINSON: So not all of these
12 affirmative defenses apply to all of our claims. So
13 that's our major problem with this. We believe it
14 would make more sense to have individual affirmative
15 defenses. To the extent it only pairs with a certain
16 claim, have it with that claim and make it specific.
17 The way this is worded makes it seem like any one of
18 these could eliminate our entire case.

19 THE COURT: I would tend to agree and not
20 give 22 because we'll have to address the affirmative
21 defenses separately. Would you like to make a record?

22 MR. PORTNOI: I think I've made a record that
23 it's helpful to have this transition to inform the jury
24 about how the burden is now shifting from plaintiffs to
25 defendants. So I believe it should be given, but I

1 understand Your Honor's ruling.

2 THE COURT: Thank you. Let's go to 23.

3 MR. PORTNOI: 23 is our proposed unclean
4 hands instruction. Mr. Stanton, during the break,
5 handed you the filing that came after we printed, which
6 includes plaintiffs' competing unclean hands directly
7 to your right.

8 THE COURT: I just need a moment to look at
9 this.

10 MR. PORTNOI: Please.

11 MS. ROBINSON: Of course. Thank you,
12 Your Honor.

13 THE COURT: In arguing your opposition to the
14 defendants' proposed, please argue your proposed.

15 MS. ROBINSON: I just wanted to check. I
16 think we'll be fine. I wanted to note, and this is
17 unrelated to this, that Ms. Lundvall is going to handle
18 the argument on the local suppression of evidence
19 instruction. So I wanted to make sure we got to that
20 one before she had to depart.

21 THE COURT: Let's go. Where is it?

22 MS. ROBINSON: So the order has been changed
23 since the last time I looked. 32.

24 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Portnoi, do you
25 mind not taking up the one we've been discussing and

1 pivoting?

2 MR. PORTNOI: Of course, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: All right. So 32.

4 Ms. Lundvall, when you're ready.

5 MS. LUNDVALL: Thank you, Your Honor. I know
6 that The Court has our proposed instruction before you
7 on Exhibit 2. It has yet to be sent to me, but I know
8 what it says to the extent that this is a follow-on to
9 the Court's order that was issued earlier in April of
10 2021, followed up by the written decision in August of
11 2021. And it identifies a series of documents that
12 were to be produced to us and the fact that they
13 weren't by a time certain. And that we've been able to
14 demonstrate that these documents do exist, that the
15 Court would give an adverse instruction.

16 On the categories -- and I would ask
17 Mr. Stanton if he could send the instructions to me so
18 that I can look specifically at the categories so I can
19 direct the Court's attention to the portions of the
20 order that I believe that apply, and couple that with
21 the testimony.

22 I know it would start with the documents
23 dealt with, the reasons that Mr. Haben and Ms. Paradise
24 indicated in their testimony that they were motivated
25 to implement these new programs because of clients'

1 concerns. Clients came to them. Clients were
2 expressing their discomfort. Consultants were telling
3 them that clients were expressing this. And that while
4 Mr. Haben acknowledged that he did not, he identified
5 others within the department, and in particular the
6 sales department would have such documents. No such
7 documents have been given to us, and, therefore, we
8 believe that we are entitled to an instruction on that
9 point.

10 MS. ROBINSON: I'm sorry, Ms. Lundvall, did
11 you say that you didn't have our first supplemental
12 jury instructions with you? We can email that to you
13 right now.

14 MS. LUNDVALL: It was just sent to me.

15 MS. ROBINSON: So you do have it?

16 MS. LUNDVALL: I now have it, yes.

17 So what I'm addressing then is the bullet
18 point then at supp. 3, speaking with regarding
19 communications with clients as to whether or not
20 defendants' introduction of programs discussed in the
21 lawsuit and whether client requests were the motivating
22 factor in the introduction and use of such programs.

23 There was a request for production 19 and 16
24 that was at issue in April. The Court had found there
25 was deficient production on that. And it identified

1 that if we were able to demonstrate that it was likely
2 that the documents that did exist responsive to that
3 were not produced to us, that this adverse instruction
4 would be given. So I'm going to go just bullet point
5 by bullet point.

6 We go to the second bullet point then for the
7 fully insured plans. It's all of the certificates of
8 coverage and the contracts. While we have received
9 some certificates of coverage, as exemplars or
10 examples, we have not received all of them from any of
11 the defendants. And that was testimony that was
12 offered by Mr. Haben, Ms. Paradise, Mr. Zimar, as well
13 as Ms. Air (phonetic), that all of those documents
14 would exist and all of those documents would be in
15 writing.

16 The third point is dealing with the
17 administrative services only plans, the summary plan
18 descriptions, the administrative services agreement, et
19 cetera. Once again, while we have been given
20 exemplars, we haven't been given all of them, where
21 each one of the defense witnesses identified that all
22 of these documents would have been in writing.

23 But the most important point at subsection 3,
24 and for which I think probably the most contentious and
25 the most at issue, is the documents that were not given

1 to us.

2 THE COURT: And the response, please. I'm
3 sorry. Go ahead, Ms. Lundvall. I may have cut you
4 off.

5 MS. LUNDVALL: No, you did not cut me off.
6 That's the summary, basically, of why that we are
7 submitting this instruction, and we believe that it
8 should be given.

9 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, I think, as this
10 has come up at trial, there's been a consistent request
11 to brief this issue and to get a motion for this
12 because this is an extremely complicated area, and,
13 potentially, one with dangerous consequences when what
14 we're talking about is instructing the jury.

15 Just some examples of why this is so
16 confusing is we just, for the first time, heard that
17 this is predicated on RFP 16 and 19. That's not
18 something that's referenced in the jury instruction
19 itself that there was a problem with RFP 16 and 19.

20 There is a statement that because of RFP 16
21 and 19 we were supposed to produce client
22 communications. I just, for the first time, having to
23 respond to this now for the very first time because it
24 hasn't been briefed, I went ahead and looked at RFP 16
25 and 19. They don't seek client communications. They

1 are far, far afield from it.

2 RFP 16 asks for documents that reflect shared
3 savings programs. It does not request documents that
4 talk about communications with clients. It asks for
5 contracts with third parties. And it asks for amounts
6 we were compensated. That doesn't have to do with
7 client communications and clients talking to us about
8 how much they were -- that the fact that they wanted to
9 see costs go down.

10 And I'm looking at RFP 19 now. RFP 19 is
11 looking for documents that -- regarding the charges and
12 reimbursements rates. Those don't have to do with
13 client communications. There was an understanding,
14 going back to Ms. Paradise's deposition many months
15 ago, that it was, of course, the salespeople who were
16 talking to clients. That's who talks to clients.
17 Mr. Haben doesn't talk to clients. Ms. Paradise
18 doesn't talk to clients.

19 This only came up when questioning from
20 plaintiffs asked, well, solicited information about
21 these client communications, but they never asked for
22 those documents. And when we exchanged the list of
23 custodians many, many months ago, those didn't include
24 any salespeople or account folks because the focus of
25 this case has been on the designers and implementers of

1 shared savings programs. That's been the gravamen of
2 the presentation so far. So there was no reason to
3 believe that would be there.

4 In addition, with respect to are RFP 16 and
5 19, Your Honor, obviously, many of these are shared
6 savings programs that occurred over the course of the
7 claims period. The claims period, obviously, July 1st
8 2017, and onward. But many of these shared savings
9 programs, and certainly the motivation for those shared
10 savings programs, Your Honor, when we're talking about
11 clients coming to tell us they wanted to see lower
12 prices or they wanted to see more controls, when that
13 comes about, what we have is a situation where the --
14 where, obviously, that's going to precede the shared
15 savings programs themselves. But both RFP 16 and 19
16 are explicitly limited to only information from July 1,
17 2017 to the present. So they couldn't possibly include
18 those communications within them.

19 Meanwhile, of course, if we're talking about
20 did we willfully suppress them, DEFS280128 is in our
21 production. I can rattle off many documents that are
22 in our production that actually do reflect client
23 complaints. They don't reflect direct communications
24 from AT&T to the account executives because no one has
25 ever asked us for account executives, but there's a lot

1 of information about consultants and clients that is
2 passed along or it becomes paraphrased. And that was
3 produced.

4 Again, this is all the kind of thing that
5 becomes substantially concerning when what we're saying
6 is, we're going to do this based on a record of a
7 one-page draft jury instruction, and not a motion, and
8 not a hearing that is explicitly going through all of
9 these documents so that we can consider them and move
10 on.

11 Even thinking about RFP 16 and 19, there's
12 just been a representation that those were subject to
13 Your Honor's August 3rd, 2020 order. RFP 19 is not in
14 paragraph B of Your Honor's August 3rd, 2020 order.

15 THE COURT: Slow down.

16 MR. PORTNOI: These are important -- these
17 may seem like details. These are important details
18 because what we're talking about is the due process
19 that is due when we're about to instruct a jury that
20 something was willfully suppressed or, as this
21 instruction says, willfully destroyed, for which there
22 is no basis. There is no basis right now for
23 willfulness. There is none at all. There is only the
24 fact that I believe an AT&T plan was ultimately not --
25 was potentially not produced.

1 And that has nothing to do with client
2 communications either. So that creates a real concern.
3 As we look at, for instance, in the tab -- Your Honor,
4 if you look forward, if you actually look at the model
5 instruction for 2.5, the model instruction for 2.5 is
6 quite clear on Nevada law, which is that only the jury
7 may find willfulness. This is taking an issue away
8 from the jury. And the issue is, in some
9 circumstances, we could instruct the jury on
10 willfulness and we could ask them to look at it.

11 THE COURT: Have I not previously ordered
12 that I thought there was a willful failure to provide
13 some of the discovery?

14 MR. PORTNOI: I believe the willfulness that
15 Your Honor found was willful delay. And willful delay
16 is not willful suppression. Willful delay is not
17 willful destruction. Willful delay, there's no basis
18 for an instruction on willful delay. And, ultimately,
19 Your Honor, when we get -- when we start moving into
20 the weeds of each of these categories of documents,
21 this presents an extremely complex issue.

22 Also, you found a prior finding of
23 willfulness based on the need for a discovery sanction,
24 for instance, a monetary sanction and otherwise. But
25 this is, again, now we're in the jury trial. They

1 designated a witness for this topic, Mr. Yurich. Mr.
2 Yurich was on their witness list, and he would have, in
3 their case in chief, potentially, talked about our --
4 he's our e-discovery head. He's a person that would
5 have talked about the challenges. He's a person that
6 would have talked about, you know, would have, in our
7 opinion, refuted any finding of willfulness. In
8 plaintiffs' opinion, he was the witness they designated
9 to show willfulness, but they chose not to call him.
10 Potentially, because they knew that his testimony would
11 substantially support our position. Potentially,
12 because, ultimately, we got to a place where we used
13 19.1 hours on other subjects with one witness so the
14 case had to move along.

15 But to do this would be to put an issue in
16 front of the jury and would be -- after all of this
17 time, Your Honor, where we've prepared to ask the jury
18 to decide the factual questions in this case, we would
19 be in a place where -- we would be at a place where we
20 would -- we would be at a place where we would suddenly
21 have to ask the jury to decide on these other discovery
22 issues when it's not there.

23 As we look at, for instance, the stated
24 authority that is in the jury instruction, NRS 47.250
25 subsection 3, there's something very important there,

1 too. That section does not create an undisputable
2 presumption -- it creates no presumption for delayed or
3 untimely production of evidence. It is only for
4 willful suppression or willful destruction.

5 More importantly, as well, it creates a
6 rebuttable presumption. That is the maximum allowable
7 by law. If we create a rebuttable presumption, we're
8 going to -- based on no evidence -- because usually
9 rebuttable presumption would come up because plaintiffs
10 called Mr. Yurich in their case in chief, and on
11 cross-examination, we would get -- the due process that
12 would be required here would require us to call more
13 witnesses to talk about this. And to have this be a
14 jury issue in the middle of the case for which we have
15 no time and for which we're deciding, not based on a
16 trial brief, not based on a motion, based solely on a
17 one-page draft jury instruction not supported by any
18 kind of factual showing, and based on having to wade
19 through issues of -- we would have to go back and look
20 at all of these RFPs and determine, based on the actual
21 language of those RFPs, did we willfully destroy or
22 willfully suppress something. Thinking about it with
23 client communications, why that would be logical. The
24 question here that plaintiffs are saying is that, we
25 willfully suppressed evidence of clients complaining to

1 us. We willfully suppressed evidence favorable to our
2 case. It's not totally clear the logic of that.

3 We would have to really think through plan
4 documents, as well as administrative records. We've
5 produced, I believe, administrative records for 16,446
6 claims in this case, substantially more than we have in
7 this. That doesn't demonstrate willful suppression.
8 That doesn't demonstrate willful destruction. That
9 demonstrates an extremely good faith effort to produce
10 every claim.

11 For some of these, for instance, Sierra and
12 HPN, it's going to be a different story. Because in
13 that case, because Sierra and HPN deal with
14 fully-insured products, we have immediate access to all
15 the plan documents. And I believe all the plan
16 documents have been produced.

17 The issue is when we start talking about
18 third-party administration. If you have, say,
19 MGM Grand, they can change their plan documents three
20 times a week and not tell us. So when we're going back
21 and actually having to find an underlying plan document
22 for that line of business, oftentimes, they're not even
23 in our possession to begin with. Nonetheless, we would
24 go and try to obtain it.

25 And we would really have to wade through that

1 record, Your Honor. And to do so without having the
2 evidence presentable to a jury, as is contemplated by
3 the statute, by the law, by due process, to do so
4 without even a brief to explain the issues, Your Honor,
5 simply doing it based on the ipse dixit, the say-so, of
6 this jury instruction, I just think is wholly improper.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. Before you reply,
8 Ms. Lundvall, please outline the order, the findings of
9 the order under which you're moving.

10 MS. LUNDVALL: Thank you, Your Honor. I'm
11 going to work in reverse then from the Court's order.
12 Particularly, I'm going to read subsection B that is
13 found on page 11 of 13. And this is from the written
14 order that bears the date then of August 3rd of 2021.
15 "In connection with RFPs 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 10, 12, 13,
16 15, 16, 18, 21, 27, 28, 30, 31, 32, 34, and
17 interrogatories 2, 3 and 10, anything not produced by
18 United by 5:00 p.m. Pacific time, April 15th, 2021,
19 will result in a negative inference which may be asked
20 of witnesses at the time of trial or at any hearing and
21 will be included in jury instruction, stating that the
22 jury should infer that the information would be harmful
23 to United's position."

24 So to suggest that somehow that we needed an
25 extra motion or extra briefing or extra anything by

1 which to ask the Court to give such instruction, that
2 would ask us to do something more than what the Court's
3 order has already required.

4 Point 2 is this. The Court made a finding of
5 willfulness within the Court's order that's found on 9
6 and 10. If you go to the section of the Court's order
7 that is found on page 6 and 7, the Court outlined the
8 specific categories of documents for which that you
9 expressly found that their production had been
10 deficient and that they had unduly delayed the
11 proceedings and had done so in a willful fashion.

12 Subsection A on page 6 deals with United's
13 statements and related financial documents.

14 Subsection C on page 7 deals with documents
15 related to United's decision-making and strategy in
16 connection with its out-of-network reimbursement rates
17 and implementation. And then it identifies some
18 specific RFPs that were not properly responded to and
19 so did the first subsection.

20 In addition, section B, "documents related to
21 United's decision-making and strategy in connection
22 with its in-network reimbursement rates and
23 implementation thereof." And the specific section that
24 called for that category of documents.

25 So let me see, if I can, put this

1 particularly in context then. The Court already, by
2 that time, found there was willful suppression of
3 evidence. You gave them opportunity by which to cure
4 that by some type of a production by April 15th. In
5 fact, they did not cure them.

6 At the time of trial, when Mr. Haben, as an
7 example, began to testify and said, my clients were
8 telling me that, our clients were telling us that, we
9 originally objected, if you recall, based upon hearsay.
10 And, ultimately, the Court allowed him to testify,
11 saying that this impacted his decision making. It was
12 influential -- he wasn't testifying based upon the
13 truth of the matter being asserted, but on his state of
14 mind. That state of mind is his decision making.

15 And so this is expressly then the follow-on
16 question that we asked, as to where would be the
17 documents that would reflect that. He identified that
18 he personally did not keep logs, but others did, that
19 would be found in the sales department. To suggest
20 that somehow the sales department at United is separate
21 from any other department and so that they would
22 have -- they weren't within the scope of this order, I
23 find that to be phenomenally disingenuous.

24 When you get to then the language that is
25 found within the proposed instruction that we have, it

1 is straight from Bass Davis. Bass Davis allows two
2 different types of inferences to be made, one based
3 upon willful suppression, a second based upon
4 negligence. The Court did not find negligence, and you
5 expressly indicated that you weren't finding
6 negligence. You were finding willfulness on the part
7 of United not complying, and, therefore, suppressing
8 evidence.

9 The language also complies with, I think it
10 is the most recent pronouncement on this issue, that is
11 the FTB v. Hyatt case. And that's my case that I've
12 been dealing with for about the last 22 years. And so
13 it comports with FTB v. Hyatt.

14 Finally, Your Honor, the indication that
15 somehow that we needed to do something more, that
16 something more wasn't our burden to demonstrate when,
17 in fact, we submitted this particular instruction.
18 Because what we were doing was using the Court's order.
19 We had informed the opposing side that we were going to
20 be using the Court's order that you had already found
21 in identifying the categories of documents that would
22 fit within.

23 They were on ample notice to be able to
24 identify any documents that then actually were produced
25 that would be responsive to these individual

1 categories. They did not. And, in fact, each and
2 every time that this issue has come up, what they have
3 done is to try to sidestep the fact that the
4 motivation, the decision making, what had motivated
5 their decision making concerning these shared savings
6 programs and any of the other programs, that
7 documentary evidence did not exist.

8 Now, the exhibits for that determination, and
9 I've scoured the record then, that those documents did
10 not get submitted to the Court.

11 Mr. Portnoi is accurate. This is a serious
12 issue. We treated this issue seriously. And the fact
13 that they have tried to give the Court's order kind of
14 just the brush of the hand, that somehow that there was
15 something that was incumbent upon us to do, there
16 wasn't. It was incumbent upon them to come forward
17 once we put them on notice that these were the category
18 of documents that we believe that do exist based upon
19 the evidence that's been presented at the time of
20 trial. And it fell directly within the scope of the
21 Court's August order. And so we believe that the
22 foundation has been given for this, Your Honor, and we
23 would respectfully request that you give it.

24 No party should be able to -- be able to
25 suppress evidence. Especially when they've been given

1 an opportunity to cure their errors and their omissions
2 and their intentional and willful indifference to the
3 prior Court's order.

4 And so, in addition to the other arguments I
5 would make, just wanted to offer that to the Court.

6 THE COURT: Thank you.

7 And your reply, please.

8 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, none of these
9 issues were encompassed in the August 3rd order. There
10 are the two issues that we're talking about. One, plan
11 documents, which I did not hear Ms. Lundvall reference
12 in the last argument, but that doesn't mean that she's
13 abandoned it. But that was not the subject of the
14 briefing or anything that was before the Court when it
15 came to that. And I remember, because you and I talked
16 the plan documents and administrative record when we
17 were -- when I was arguing the sanctions motion on
18 April 9th. That wasn't the subject.

19 And, in fact, in their motion for sanctions
20 that was filed, I believe, on March 8th of 2021, they
21 were very clear that they weren't seeking sanctions on
22 the administrative records because we had been
23 producing so many of them and they believed those
24 records were non-substantive. That's a quotation.
25 That wasn't the subject of the order.

1 Neither was it the subject of the order these
2 client quotations that they are now, for the first
3 time, interested in. But I want to be clear. Those
4 were produced and they were produced before April 15th.

5 Defendants 280.128, quote, "Our clients costs
6 have continued to rise at alarming rates and are one of
7 the main concerns our clients raised to the account
8 team." Produced before April 15.

9 Defendants 528.207. "Large employers are
10 showing interest in innovative benefit designs that are
11 on HDHPs to drive down overall healthcare costs.

12 THE COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry. Innovative
13 designs that are?

14 MR. PORTNOI: On HDHPs to drive down overall
15 healthcare costs.

16 Defendants 100.526. "Employers, health point
17 clients, are increasingly believing that incumbents do
18 not deliver the potential value for money necessary to
19 deliver on their health benefits, driving increasing
20 interest in attackers and innovators to disrupt the
21 system."

22 Defendants 413.948. "Demand for cost of care
23 tools is high, driven by consultant marketing, client
24 frustration with limitations of discount tools, and
25 competitor promotion of these new tools."

1 Defendants 524.202. "UHG is disadvantaged to
2 the market by 1.73 PM. If you exclude non-court admin,
3 consistent with our competitors, we are slightly more
4 favorable to the industry but remain significantly more
5 expense."

6 Defendants 305.683. "ASO clients are seeking
7 more OON, out-of-network, spend solutions without
8 necessarily shifting greater cost share to employees."

9 Defendants 482.543. "The heat is on and we
10 need to formulate our position with being compared to
11 our competitors. We've got some immediate needs for
12 any insights we can get."

13 There's no willful suppression of evidence.
14 There was no suppression at all of evidence that our
15 clients were putting pressure on us. We produced them.
16 We produced hundreds of thousands of documents overall.
17 This is a portion of the documents that relate to the
18 pressures that our clients were putting on us.

19 The fact is that what is at issue in this
20 case is, as we pointed out, the state of mind of the
21 witnesses, Mr. Haben and Ms. Paradise, when they were
22 in their roles creating shared savings programs. And
23 their state of mind was influenced by folks in other
24 parts of the company telling them about client
25 pressure.

1 It was not directly influenced by the
2 individual statements that might have come from AT&T
3 and others, which, by the way, may have been oral.
4 There is no -- there's been no statement that there are
5 some batch of emails that came from AT&T to the sales
6 team that were, A, never requested, and, B, might not
7 even exist to begin with. And that's the record we're
8 dealing with on a subject matter that wasn't briefed in
9 April, wasn't argued in April, and was not the subject
10 of the August 3rd order.

11 If I go to the August 3rd order, what we see
12 is there was a reference to paragraph 16, subparagraph
13 A, which relates to our shared savings program. It
14 says we hadn't produced any agreement with any employer
15 group related to shared savings program.

16 It's not relevant to the subject matter that
17 we're talking about when we're talking about client
18 communications. Documents related -- subparagraph C.
19 "Documents related to United's decision-making and
20 strategy in connection with its out-of-network
21 reimbursement rates and implementation thereof."

22 Here it is described as information related
23 to decision made or reimbursement strategy or the
24 methodology. We'd already produced or were produced by
25 April 15th the documents that I just listed to

1 Your Honor that relate to that.

2 And, oddly, I heard subsection D, which
3 relates to in-network reimbursement. This has nothing
4 to do with in-network reimbursement.

5 So this is an issue -- and we have multiple
6 RFPs underneath this, 6, 7, 18, 31, 32. We would have
7 to go through these one by one because none of these
8 issues were determined in the April -- at the April 9th
9 hearing or the August 3rd order. These are new issues
10 that are being presented to Your Honor now for the
11 first time.

12 Willful delay may have been found with
13 respect to categories of documents. But willful delay
14 was not found with respect to any category of documents
15 that have been put at issue in this jury instruction.
16 And, certainly, willful suppression has not been shown.
17 Neither has willful destruction.

18 Where we -- and, you know, the question is,
19 is there an implication that plaintiffs were supposed
20 to do something to justify the instruction. That's how
21 jury instructions work. You put on evidence to justify
22 a jury instruction. This is a jury instruction.
23 Again, when we look at the pattern instruction 2.5,
24 it's not -- it is something where the jury has to be
25 informed or the jury has to make the determination.

1 THE COURT: I'm going to stop you here. I
2 took an oath to be patient, but I really pretty much
3 made up my mind on this. I'll give you both a chance
4 to respond. To me, it seems fair to mark as an exhibit
5 or have the Court take judicial notice of a redacted
6 order as of August 3, 2021. And then modify 2.5 to add
7 a sentence at the beginning, "In this case the Court
8 has previously found" and agree on language with regard
9 to the order. This order can be found at Exhibit
10 whatever. Then give me jury instruction under the
11 pattern and give both parties a chance to talk about in
12 their closing arguments compliance or noncompliance
13 with the order.

14 MR. PORTNOI: Would you like to hear from me
15 first?

16 THE COURT: From you.

17 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, I don't believe
18 that that's appropriate and I don't believe that's
19 appropriate in no small part because we've had no --

20 THE COURT: No, the redaction won't include
21 anything about sanctions. It will only deal with the
22 obligation to produce and what will result if things
23 are not produced.

24 MR. PORTNOI: I don't think that the jury --
25 given that there's been no witness who's been able to

1 talk about the production, I don't think that the jury
2 is going to be able to understand or do anything with
3 that so it's going to create an unwarranted implication
4 since there's no time for us to rebut the presumption
5 since the instruction is about a rebuttable
6 presumption, to put on evidence which I believe would
7 be evidence that I've just described, which is that
8 this order had to do with certain discovery requests in
9 certain subjects. There's a complaint about
10 productions on totally different subjects. And those
11 subjects are -- and, nonetheless, it turns out that
12 there is a lot of production on those subjects.

13 It just isn't something that I believe we've
14 laid the predicate factually for the jury to be able to
15 hear pattern instruction 2.5. Plaintiffs put a witness
16 on their list to discuss this. They chose not to call
17 that witness. And now we are at a point where, due to
18 the extended presentation that plaintiffs gave in the
19 beginning of the case, we're talking about injecting
20 sanctions into this or injecting -- having to put on
21 evidence about the quality of the production when
22 there's only one day of trial left before we have to
23 charge the jury. And that just creates an undue and
24 severe prejudice.

25 THE COURT: The testimony, it would be the

1 plaintiffs' burden to say that, in this testimony we
2 ask for this information, it's covered in the order,
3 and it didn't exist. Or it wasn't -- there wasn't
4 testimony with regard to what was compliant.

5 MR. PORTNOI: But the issue is that there was
6 nobody called who was familiar with our production,
7 that would be familiar -- the person they primarily
8 talked to is somebody who is not even a United
9 employee.

10 THE COURT: The plaintiff did elicit
11 testimony from some of the defense witnesses that
12 certain plan information, and they denied it. So I
13 think they've set a predicate for something. Now, let
14 me hear from Ms. Lundvall.

15 MS. LUNDVALL: Your Honor, we would agree to
16 be able to mark the Court's order as an exhibit in a
17 redacted format. The one thing I think would be very
18 important is to ensure that the Court's first finding
19 that is found on page 10, where on page 10, line 25,
20 where you expressly found already with respect to the
21 first factor, "The Court finds United's conduct to be
22 willful." And I think that would be an appropriate
23 inclusion into the redacted version. And then from the
24 jury's perspective, that they could be able to hear
25 argument from both sides.

1 To suggest from Mr. Portnoi's standpoint that
2 somehow they've been prejudiced, they have been on
3 notice since August that the jury instruction is going
4 to be at issue. And we made note that, in fact, that
5 we intended to pursue this instruction in the event
6 that there were witnesses that identified documents
7 that we thought fell within the scope of it. There's
8 been no prejudice to them. Therefore, we agree with
9 the suggestion that the Court has made.

10 THE COURT: I'll give you a chance to
11 respond.

12 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, we were on notice
13 of the idea that there was going to be a discussion of
14 the quality of the production based on plaintiffs
15 calling a witness who was on their witness list who
16 was, in part, responsible internally at United for
17 pulling and producing documents. That's how we were on
18 notice. When the plaintiffs chose to not call that
19 witness because of the many hours that had to be spent
20 with another witness, that -- we were no longer on
21 notice of that. And at that point, the issue, given
22 that it is the rule in Nevada that the jury has to find
23 willfulness once you get to trial and that it becomes a
24 rebuttable presumption, it became -- there ceased to be
25 that kind of due process and notice. And this

1 instruction was only submitted a couple of days ago.
2 It was not part of the original packet.

3 THE COURT: We've talked about it off and on
4 since April.

5 MR. PORTNOI: Yes, Your Honor. And the fact
6 is that, again, there still needs to be a connection
7 between the order and what has been deemed to not be
8 produced. And it's not fair to ask us to have to prove
9 to the jury that RFP 16 and RFP 19 don't encompass
10 these subjects. That's not something that the jury is
11 competent to do. The fact is we don't have time to
12 call a witness who can describe those RFPs and how they
13 are not encompassed by the scope of Your Honor's order.

14 THE COURT: Thank you. Let's move on. I
15 need to text my husband because I told him I thought
16 we'd be done by 6:00. So I can work until 6:30, but
17 I'll need to let him know. So everybody just take a
18 minute here.

19 (Whereupon, a recess was taken.)

20 THE COURT: We are back to 23.

21 MR. SMITH: With respect to those couple of
22 proposed instructions, obviously, our position was,
23 don't give an instruction on spoliation, but seeing as
24 how you've rejected that position, our first preference
25 would be make it the adverse inference instruction

1 rather than the rebuttable presumption instruction.
2 And then if you're deciding you are going to give the
3 rebuttable presumption instruction, there are a few
4 changes to the language that we --

5 THE COURT: I think I just did.

6 MR. SMITH: So then the second alternative
7 there proposes changes to that language of the
8 rebuttable presumption just because statutorily the
9 language used does not -- we colloquially say
10 rebuttable presumption, but the statute says disputable
11 presumption.

12 Then there are a couple of clarifications
13 about needing to -- I have it in front of me. It's not
14 a burden of proof that shifts. That the burden always
15 remains on the plaintiff, but the burden to rebut the
16 presumption shifts to the party who is found to have
17 suppressed the evidence. So we would want to ask that
18 the Court make those couple of changes to the pattern
19 the plaintiffs have proposed.

20 THE COURT: I wish you'd brought this up
21 before I ruled.

22 MR. SMITH: And I understand that you have
23 ruled that you are giving the adverse for the
24 rebuttable presumption instruction. I'm just saying as
25 a modification to that.

1 THE COURT: Good enough. Let's go to 23.

2 MS. ROBINSON: I believe that we have -- I
3 think Your Honor has the version that we have
4 submitted, but let me --

5 THE COURT: And where is that?

6 MS. ROBINSON: If not, then I can pull --

7 THE COURT: No. No. I was given this today.

8 MS. ROBINSON: It should be third supplement
9 3.

10 THE COURT: I got it.

11 MS. ROBINSON: I tried to give unique page
12 numbers. And so I'm just going to say right off the
13 bat that, as we say at the very top of this, we don't
14 believe there is sufficient evidence to give an unclean
15 hands instruction. The most important factor in that
16 is that there needs to be a showing of damages.

17 Now, my understanding, and Mr. McManis can
18 also address this, is that the basis of unclean hands
19 is the alleged supp. 10 issue. And, as I understand
20 it, there has been no evidence of damage to United.
21 Now, they claim that we have inflated our charges and
22 that the jury could award damages that are incorrect
23 based on the supp. 10, but that's up to the jury.

24 They have not, to date, suffered any damage
25 and there's been no evidence of damage. And so the

1 cases really -- there's not a lot in the Nevada Supreme
2 Court of unclean hands, but it is clear under -- let me
3 just -- under the Las Vegas -- I'm almost blushing to
4 say this, Your Honor, Fetish & Fantasy Halloween Ball
5 case, is clear that the Court -- in this case, it was
6 because it's an equitable defense, it was considered by
7 the Court. "The Court needs to consider the
8 seriousness of the harm caused by the misconduct."

9 That presupposes that there is harm caused by
10 the misconduct. And here there has been no harm.

11 In addition, just to highlight the main
12 points that we have here, the defendants have offered
13 unclean hands as a defense to our entire case. There
14 is no Nevada Supreme Court case saying that an
15 equitable defense can be applied to legal claims. Now,
16 there's no Nevada Supreme Court case saying that it
17 can't.

18 We have offered a Federal District Court
19 case. That's the D.E. Shaw Laminar Portfolios case
20 that's in our support that's on the 3rd Supp. 4, saying
21 that -- you know, recognizing that it believes that the
22 Nevada Supreme Court would hold that the unclean hands
23 defense would only apply to equitable claims, which
24 would be our unjust enrichment claim and not our breach
25 of contract statutory claims.

1 That's kind of the highlight. I don't want
2 to take a lot of time by going through every possible
3 argument. I'd invite Mr. Portnoi to respond.

4 THE COURT: Please.

5 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, plaintiffs could
6 have moved for summary judgment on the unclean hands
7 defense. They didn't. They moved to eliminate to
8 exclude evidence on the unclean hands defense. They
9 lost. This is improper dispositive motion and motion
10 for reconsideration.

11 To address the individual issues. When we
12 read D.E. Shaw, that is the only case that suggests
13 that, as it says, not that it doesn't, but that there
14 is some doubt about whether the unclean hands defense
15 applies to legal claims as opposed to equitable claims.

16 But, more broadly, when we look across the
17 different states and they decide whether or not unclean
18 hands applies to legal or equitable claims, what
19 happens there, Your Honor, what we see in those cases,
20 Your Honor, is that in states where law and equity has
21 merged, such as Nevada, equitable and legal defenses
22 apply to equitable and legal claims. In states like
23 Delaware, for instance, which still observe the archaic
24 separation of law and equity, unclean hands is a
25 defense only to equitable claims.

1 So as a matter -- although that's not me
2 saying that there's a Nevada Supreme Court case, it's
3 like, right on point. That tells us that we know
4 already there's no Nevada Supreme Court saying that
5 this doesn't apply, and, furthermore, that there's a
6 problem now.

7 With respect to seriousness of the harm,
8 that's a big leap that's being made here, that you have
9 to show damages to, one of the balancing factors is
10 seriousness of the harm. There are cases that in
11 balancing egregiousness of the conduct and seriousness
12 of the harm mention that one of the issues is that
13 there was no harm in that case, and so it was a
14 balancing factor. Unclean hands couldn't survive.

15 But here it is instead a case here that what
16 we have is there's, we believe, egregious conduct. And
17 the balancing factors can be argued to the jury. But
18 they're balancing factors. They're not elements. And
19 they're being converted into elements when that's
20 not -- when that's simply not true.

21 The language in Truck Insurance Exchange v.
22 Palmer J. Swanson, a Nevada Supreme Court case is
23 simply that the doctrine bars relief to a party who has
24 engaged in improper conduct in the matter in which that
25 party is seeking relief. As such, alleged inequitable

1 conduct relied upon must be connected with the matter
2 in the litigation.

3 We have put that already in our instruction,
4 which is a simpler and a shorter statement of the rule
5 that is the rule here in Nevada.

6 We've not gone after every plaintiff, as we
7 noted, as you can see in the instruction. It lists
8 parties because there's no allegation that TEAM
9 Physician was involved in the substance. We've tried
10 to be as careful as possible with respect to this
11 instruction.

12 But the fact is, is that this is a correct
13 statement of the law. There's been no motion to get
14 rid of this affirmative defense. And this has already
15 been litigated in context with the motion in limine.

16 THE COURT: I have a question for him first.

17 So do you argue that under D.E. Shaw, that
18 the injury part element is improper in the plaintiffs'
19 paragraph 5?

20 MR. PORTNOI: I think D.E. Shaw is only cited
21 by plaintiffs for the proposition that this doesn't
22 apply to claims in law as opposed to claims in equity.
23 So I think it was potentially Las Vegas Fetish &
24 Fantasy that is argued by plaintiffs to have an element
25 or require an element that there must be harm, but

1 that's just simply not the case. What Las Vegas Fetish
2 & Fantasy states is that there are factors to be
3 balanced. And among those factors is egregiousness of
4 the misconduct and seriousness of the harm. So as that
5 subsequently gives to the jury, as it says, broad
6 discretion in determining whether to apply the unclean
7 hands.

8 So I do believe that that is -- that's
9 present. Also, I will state that neither Truck
10 Insurance Exchange or Las Vegas Fetish say anything
11 about defendants' clean hands or the idea that there
12 needs to be -- that defendants must come to the issue
13 without there being misconduct. A, that's not in the
14 cases, as is suggested by their instruction. It also
15 makes no sense.

16 An unclean hands defense always contemplates
17 the idea that there are going to be allegations that
18 the defendants did something wrong. Otherwise, you
19 wouldn't need an unclean hands defense because you
20 would have simply defeated plaintiffs' case.

21 So the focus in unclean hands is never on
22 defendants' conduct. It's on the plaintiffs' claim of
23 unclean hands. Not there.

24 And so I would also state the evidence hasn't
25 come in on this. Your Honor knows from reviewing depo

1 designations.

2 THE COURT: I read those this morning.

3 MR. PORTNOI: It simply is the case that we
4 are doing jury instructions before defendants have
5 rested. Obviously, that evidence is coming in.

6 THE COURT: Response?

7 MS. ROBINSON: So my response is that their
8 instruction, I'm searching it, and I don't see anything
9 about balancing the egregiousness of the issue and the
10 seriousness of the harm. It's simply not there. What
11 they say is, "If the jury finds that Fremont and Ruby
12 Crest engaged in any improper conduct, the jury must
13 find against Fremont and Ruby Crest on all claims."

14 That does not involve any balancing. It's
15 completely divorced from what the Nevada Supreme Court
16 said in Las Vegas Fetish & Fantasy.

17 THE COURT: The ruling is that the
18 plaintiffs' version of unclean hands will be given to
19 the jury. That takes us to 24.

20 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 MR. PORTNOI: Just so we have a clear record,
22 you're ruling the defendants' instruction will not be
23 given?

24 THE COURT: That's correct.

25 MR. PORTNOI: Thank you. Accord and

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1 satisfaction, I think at this time, as the evidence has
2 come in, we believe that this would have related to
3 evidence that has been -- that has been not included
4 based upon the Court's in limine rulings. This is a
5 record-making exercise. We think this would have
6 related to appeals within the Data iSight system. So
7 we are not withdrawing it.

8 MS. ROBINSON: Our response is that it's not
9 supported by the evidence.

10 THE COURT: 24 will not be given. Let's go
11 to 25.

12 MR. PORTNOI: Same for 25, where, you know,
13 this would relate to, for instance, exhausting claims
14 through the administrative process, which has not
15 happened. And, as a result, claims going back to 2017
16 which could have been appealed and oftentimes would
17 have been successfully appealed, as we would have seen
18 had more evidence come in on this issue. But, again,
19 this is similarly the same as the last instruction.

20 MS. ROBINSON: It's the same, Your Honor. No
21 evidence to support.

22 THE COURT: 25 will not be given.

23 MR. PORTNOI: And, likewise, 26 relates to,
24 again, to some extent relates to earlier discovery
25 rulings. This is our affirmative defense that would

1 have provided us offset with respect to claims that
2 were submitted that we don't believe are supported by
3 the underlying medical records.

4 MS. ROBINSON: So our position is that if
5 defendants -- if the jury agrees with the defendant
6 that these are not claims that they approved, were not
7 claims that were submitted to them, were not claims
8 that they were responsible for.

9 THE COURT: That's the 455.

10 MS. ROBINSON: Correct. Then the jury will
11 just take that out of the damages calculation. And I
12 believe the defendants have already offered a damages
13 calculation based upon that.

14 MR. PORTNOI: As a result, I think that this
15 instructs the jury on how to address that evidence.

16 THE COURT: I'm going to decline to give 26.
17 Let's go to 27.

18 MR. PORTNOI: I believe Mr. Smith is going to
19 help me out with punitives and let my voice rest for a
20 moment.

21 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 So there are a couple of issues with
23 plaintiffs' proposed --

24 MS. ROBINSON: I don't mean to interrupt. I
25 just want to point out that we have an updated version.

1 I just wanted to make sure you were looking at the
2 updated version, which is plaintiffs' supplemental 6 at
3 the bottom. It should be in the binder.

4 THE COURT: Is that on the bottom right it
5 says, page 193? Or is it after that?

6 MS. ROBINSON: We have it on tab 27. It was,
7 the first page was -- said "punitive damages part 1"
8 and then the second page says "replaces previous
9 instruction." Plaintiffs' supplemental 6 is our live
10 proposed instruction.

11 THE COURT: Okay. Why shouldn't I just give
12 the pattern instruction?

13 MS. ROBINSON: Are you asking me? Okay. I
14 think that the only thing that we changed here was to
15 specify the relevant claims and to add -- this is maybe
16 some record-making on my part -- adding "the person
17 includes corporations and other business entities."

18 This is something that we argued with respect
19 to treating corporations the same as any other party,
20 but I had a concern that the jury might be confused
21 with the word "person" does not refer to a natural
22 person but can refer to a business entity as well.

23 THE COURT: But there is an instruction I've
24 already given --

25 MS. ROBINSON: I'm sorry, Your Honor. The

1 instruction says that corporations should be -- I guess
2 the form instruction on how corporations should be
3 treated always -- what I get from that, and what I'm
4 concerned a jury will get from that, is that you
5 shouldn't be harder on a corporation than you would be
6 on a natural person.

7 THE COURT: And you can address that in
8 closing argument.

9 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Your Honor. We've
10 made a record.

11 THE COURT: So on 27, the pattern will be
12 given.

13 MR. SMITH: So, Your Honor, there is a, as
14 they indicate, they've modified the pattern. I
15 actually have one problem with the pattern that I think
16 maybe we can address first, and then we'll get to the
17 bigger issue.

18 I think when they went from the 2011 version
19 to the 2018 version, the drafters of the 2018 version,
20 for some reason, put all of the instructions on
21 punitive damages, including the amount of damages, into
22 one instruction. Now, I think we've all agreed, both
23 sides, that, obviously, we're phasing the trial. The
24 jury is not going to award an amount of punitive
25 damages during the first phase. But the pattern

1 instruction from 2018 doesn't reflect that because it
2 kind of assumes that it's all going to be together.

3 So I would propose --

4 THE COURT: How about if I charge you with
5 coming to an agreement on some language with regard to
6 the 2018?

7 MS. ROBINSON: I would just say,
8 Your Honor -- I would disagree with the premise. If
9 you look at the use note of the 2018 instruction, it's
10 the very last -- if you flip over the pattern and look
11 at the very last line, it does contemplate. That's
12 what we followed. We did exactly what the use note
13 said. It just split the 2018 into two parts. That's
14 why ours says part 1 and part 2.

15 MR. SMITH: And I think the 2011 version does
16 a better job of actually making that explicit. So what
17 we've proposed as our supplemental instruction is the
18 pattern from 2011, just the two paragraphs that discuss
19 the issue of phasing. I think it's important to let
20 the jury know that they are going to receive additional
21 instructions and evidence regarding how to calculate
22 punitive damages, but that's not coming in this phase.
23 Otherwise, the jury is going to be left hanging with
24 this impression that they're supposed to award punitive
25 damages. And, yet, they're not instructed as to how

1 that works logistically. That's why I'm saying the
2 pattern of 2011 addresses that.

3 MS. ROBINSON: I'll just be very frank. The
4 message to the jury with the 2011 instruction is if you
5 want to go home quicker, then find no predicate for
6 punitive damages.

7 MR. POLSENBERG: My concern with not giving
8 the 2011 is the 2011 was based on the case I had where
9 the jury awarded punitives as part of the compensatory
10 damages so we had to do it all over again.

11 MS. ROBINSON: We're not going to ask for
12 that, Your Honor.

13 MR. POLSENBERG: Of course. If you ask for
14 it, the judge would say, that's not the way we're going
15 to do that. Trust me, that was a big headache.

16 THE COURT: So why don't we take 12.1, the
17 2018 version, and just add a sentence, "if you find
18 that punitive damages are appropriate, I will further
19 instruct you."

20 MS. ROBINSON: That works, Your Honor.

21 MR. POLSENBERG: Judge, I think we --

22 THE COURT: You will agree on the language.
23 The parties will agree on the language.

24 MR. POLSENBERG: I think the language in 2011
25 works.

1 THE COURT: And if you don't, I'll make up
2 the language. 28.

3 MR. SMITH: The other issue -- sorry, still
4 on 27 -- so this is the bigger issue. The plaintiffs
5 have added that and specified that they're seeking
6 punitive damages not only with respect to their claim
7 under the Unfair Claims Practices Act, but also with
8 respect to the claim for unjust enrichment.

9 THE COURT: Didn't I just say that we would
10 give the pattern instruction. I'm not going to give
11 the first two proposed.

12 MR. SMITH: Well, the pattern instruction --
13 okay. So you would be -- so it would begin with --

14 THE COURT: If you find.

15 MR. SMITH: -- "if you find that the
16 plaintiff suffered damage as a result of the
17 defendants' conduct and the defendants are liable based
18 on that conduct."

19 I still feel it's important to specify
20 because the plaintiffs have several claims in this
21 case.

22 MR. PORTNOI: That's because, Your Honor,
23 the -- because the issue is that there's bracketed
24 language in the pattern that has to be filled out. And
25 as a result, when it comes -- generally, you would

1 inform the jury. Because the issue with punitive
2 damages is that it has to be punitive damages with
3 respect to the conduct for which punitive damages can
4 be a basis. When you have multiple claims in a case
5 and some of those claims have punitive damages alleged
6 and some of them don't, the jury has to be instructed.
7 And here we do have that.

8 And I want to be clear. And I want to
9 provide to you and opposing counsel the joint pretrial
10 order, which is very clear on this issue. And it's
11 something that I asked to be very clear because Eighth
12 District Circuit Rule 2.67, I believe subsection B8,
13 requires that you have a -- that you list a claim of
14 damages -- I'll point you to page 5, Your Honor. It's
15 going to bleed from page 5 to page 6.

16 It requires that you list the individual
17 claims and requires that you list the damages
18 underneath. And here, if you go to count 2, unjust
19 enrichment, plaintiffs ask for damages, actual damages
20 and pre- and post-judgment injuries. And unfair
21 settlement practices, they listed actual damages,
22 punitive damages, pre- and post-judgment injuries.

23 THE COURT: So make sure that you two agree
24 on language that also specifies against whom punitives
25 may be awarded.

1 MR. PORTNOI: And with respect to only that
2 the Nevada Unfair Claims Practices Act; Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: That's correct.

4 MS. ROBINSON: I'm sorry. Is that an Unfair
5 Claims Practices Act. So the Court is ruling --
6 because I had thought you had already ruled about the
7 unjust enrichment.

8 THE COURT: I had. Do you want to respond?

9 MS. ROBINSON: Yes. We would like to pursue
10 punitive damages for unjust enrichment and we don't
11 believe there's any prejudice.

12 THE COURT: I believe that's consistent with
13 my prior ruling. The punitive damages rely on the
14 unjust enrichment.

15 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, again, I don't
16 think this has been ruled upon. This was only a
17 footnote in our directed verdict motion. We didn't
18 move for a directed verdict on this issue because you
19 can't move for a directed verdict on something that
20 hasn't been pled. It hadn't been pled because, again,
21 the joint pretrial memorandum supercedes the pleadings.
22 And the prior pleadings also didn't ask for punitive
23 damages for unjust enrichment. Your Honor, this was
24 not the subject of the directed verdict, and Your Honor
25 has not ruled yet.

1 The fact is, is that if there's a desire to
2 amend the joint pretrial memorandum, there should be a
3 motion to amend the joint pretrial memorandum, and
4 there should be a proposed amended joint pretrial
5 memorandum submitted to the Court.

6 THE COURT: I just overruled your objection.
7 We'll go with the punitive damages 12.1 with language
8 that you agree upon with regard to claims and parties,
9 and adding a sentence at the end that says, if you find
10 that punitive damages are appropriate, you will be
11 instructed further.

12 MR. SMITH: So, Your Honor, just to clarify,
13 so you're allowing them to amend their pleadings under
14 Rule 15 even though they haven't made a motion to
15 amend?

16 THE COURT: I am allowing them to seek
17 punitive damages on unjust enrichment.

18 MR. PORTNOI: Just so we have the record, are
19 you doing so by allowing them to amend the joint
20 pretrial order or are we disregarding the joint
21 pretrial order?

22 MS. ROBINSON: Would it help if I move to
23 amend the --

24 THE COURT: We'll take it up tomorrow so they
25 have a chance.

1 MS. ROBINSON: Understood.

2 THE COURT: Okay. Now, let's go to 28. I
3 only have something from the plaintiffs here or the
4 pattern. Oh, I see; I do have something from the
5 defendant.

6 First, how is the pattern instruction revised
7 and why?

8 MS. ROBINSON: Number 28? So 28 is the
9 pattern. That's just a second part. I broke it into
10 two pieces, as suggested by the use note.

11 THE COURT: I see.

12 MR. McMANIS: This would be, I think, the
13 further instruction that's referred to in the sentence
14 that we're going to add to the one we just discussed.

15 MS. ROBINSON: Correct. This would be given
16 during the second phase.

17 THE COURT: And response, please.

18 MR. SMITH: I think we should take this up if
19 and when there is a second phase.

20 THE COURT: I agree. That takes us to 29.
21 Same thing.

22 MS. ROBINSON: So in this case, I don't think
23 there has been any evidence -- I know that there was a
24 great deal of discussion about this before trial.
25 However, I haven't been hearing any evidence regarding

1 harm outside of Nevada, nor have I been hearing
2 evidence regarding harm to nonparties. We have been
3 focusing on the harm to the plaintiffs in Nevada. So I
4 just don't think that this is supported by the evidence
5 in this case, and it's confusing because it's not
6 supported by the evidence in this case.

7 THE COURT: I understand. Who's going to
8 argue this?

9 MR. SMITH: I can, just briefly. I think
10 that this is, again, another way in which the 2011
11 pattern, perhaps, makes more sense. When we talk
12 between us to discuss adding the language, perhaps we
13 can come to some agreement about this. But the pattern
14 from 2011 does make clear that you cannot punish the
15 defendant for conduct that is lawful or which did not
16 cause actual harm to the plaintiff or which occurred
17 and caused harm in other states.

18 Obviously, we prefer the more thorough
19 instruction that we've provided.

20 THE COURT: Where is the evidence that the
21 defendants' conduct occurred outside of Nevada?

22 MR. SMITH: Well, Your Honor, I don't think
23 that they have put on evidence that supports that. But
24 we've heard reference to the fact that plaintiffs --
25 that this has been some kind of nationwide scheme of

1 United as a whole to embark on this plan to harm
2 TeamHealth as a whole. And I'm concerned that even
3 though the plaintiffs --

4 That that would be construed -- the jury did
5 not have an instruction telling them how to process
6 that information, that they might --

7 THE COURT: I can ensure you if you guys go
8 into this national scheme, I'll sustain an objection.
9 I'd sustain the objection and instruct the jury to
10 disregard the statement making this unnecessary. So 29
11 won't be given.

12 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, because you
13 mentioned a nationwide scheme --

14 THE COURT: If they get into that, I'll
15 sustain an objection and instruct the jury not to
16 consider it. This is only about what's happening in
17 Nevada.

18 MR. PORTNOI: May I also be clear there's
19 nationwide scheme, which is sort of the cause of
20 problems, and there's also potentially nationwide or
21 out of state harm, which is, sort of, the effect --

22 THE COURT: That would be golden rule, and
23 that's not going to happen.

24 MR. PORTNOI: That's what I wanted to ask.
25 Thank you, Your Honor.

1 MR. SMITH: I think we'd also ask for a
2 curative instruction if that were the case.

3 THE COURT: If it comes up, we'll deal with
4 it. 30.

5 MS. ROBINSON: So, Your Honor, this
6 instruction is not relevant to the evidence in this
7 case. It's basically an instruction to the jury that
8 healthcare is too expensive. And I don't see how it
9 helps the jury decide any issues in front of the case.
10 It just sort of tells the jury that healthcare is too
11 expensive.

12 THE COURT: And the response?

13 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, this is a direct
14 quote from the legislature's factual findings. It is
15 the law and policy. It is a correct statement of the
16 law that there has to be a balancing that includes
17 dealing with high healthcare costs.

18 THE COURT: 30 will not be given. 31.

19 MS. ROBINSON: I believe 31 is the same. My
20 argument is the same, that this is, essentially -- this
21 is an instruction to the jury that healthcare is too
22 expensive, and it's not relevant to the evidence or the
23 issues in this case.

24 THE COURT: How does this come in? I'll give
25 you a chance to respond.

1 MR. PORTNOI: Same argument as the last
2 instruction, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: 31 will not be given. Thank you.
4 32 we've resolved not to anyone's
5 satisfaction but mine.

6 And then 33.

7 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, this is a proposed
8 instruction from plaintiffs that we don't think ought
9 to be given. We think it is, first off, there's been
10 some statements regarding the greatest of three. We
11 don't think the jury needs to be instructed on the
12 greatest of three. I think that what would have been
13 previously proposed by plaintiffs was that the
14 regulation would come in under judicial notice, which
15 we also oppose. But that's one thing. It's another
16 thing for Your Honor to instruct the jury how to
17 interpret this regulation that goes on for many pages.

18 And I would also point out, Your Honor, that
19 it's simply wrong. It states it is not necessarily a
20 method of determining what amount is reasonable.

21 MS. ROBINSON: Actually -- sorry, I didn't
22 mean to interrupt. We realized that the necessarily
23 didn't belong, and that's the third supplemental. So
24 that word is not in here.

25 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, in eight times in

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1 this regulation, this regulation says this is a measure
2 of what is reasonable. So this is plaintiffs asking
3 you to tell an untruth, to say that this regulation
4 doesn't say that the greatest of three is a measure of
5 reasonableness. It states, "it is necessary that a
6 reasonable amount be paid before a patient becomes
7 responsible for a balance."

8 THE COURT: Colby Balkenbush just joined us.

9 MR. PORTNOI: I think he was sitting in. I'm
10 not sure if he's choosing to talk. We've been losing
11 the Zoom link, for whatever reason.

12 Thus, these interim final regulations require
13 that a reasonable amount be paid for services by some
14 objective standard.

15 I don't think you want to hear it, but
16 there's going to be eight more times that it's going to
17 say this is a measure of a reasonable amount.

18 THE COURT: I'm going to decline to give the
19 greatest of three instruction.

20 Let's talk about 34, which talks about
21 in-network and Medicare.

22 MR. PORTNOI: So, Your Honor, this is also a
23 proposed instruction that I'm not totally sure what
24 wrongful evidence it's believed that this instruction
25 is necessary. I believe this was first raised after

1 Mr. Diehl was asked a question by the jury about the
2 Brookings Institute report. But when you actually go
3 back to the transcript, he was not actually saying that
4 the jury should use in-network rates or Medicare rates.
5 He was asked by the jury, what did the authors of the
6 Brookings Institute report do. Now, anyone, if you
7 read the Brookings Institute report --

8 THE COURT: We had a big colloquy on the
9 record about all of that.

10 MR. PORTNOI: Right. As a result, I don't
11 believe that there's any reason for a corrective
12 instruction at this time. If anything, this is going
13 to draw the jury's attention to a single issue.

14 THE COURT: I think that they shouldn't
15 consider in-network rates. I think that's been really
16 clear.

17 MR. PORTNOI: But they haven't been presented
18 with in-network rates.

19 THE COURT: It's come up indirectly a number
20 of times. Let me hear from the plaintiff, and then
21 I'll give you a chance to respond.

22 MR. POLSENBERG: I also think their objection
23 was late. They could have objected at the time and we
24 could have handled it.

25 THE COURT: You're right.

1 Respond, please.

2 MR. McMANIS: Yes, Your Honor. So the reason
3 this is necessary is because of the Chris Diehl
4 testimony and the fact that in response to that
5 question, which did not ask about the actual values of
6 in-network rates, we volunteered that information
7 despite knowing that Your Honor --

8 THE COURT: You can argue that. And I'll
9 decline to give No. 34.

10 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor -- if you're
11 declining to give it --

12 THE COURT: I'll decline to give it, but they
13 can say that Mr. Diehl said some things that were
14 inappropriate. And we only are talking about
15 out-of-network charges and their reasonableness.

16 MR. McMANIS: So the concern I would have,
17 Your Honor, is that if that's the approach, then we're
18 going to be faced with them presenting that evidence in
19 closing as, these are the in-network rates.

20 THE COURT: You are not going to emphasize
21 that language. It was the subject of a motion in
22 limine. And if you do, again, I'll admonish and
23 instruct. And that embarrasses -- I don't want to have
24 to embarrass you guys.

25 MR. PORTNOI: I don't think Mr. Boil intends

1 to. "It is hereby ordered that the motion is deferred
2 to trial with respect to the issue of healthcare
3 providers' in-network rates."

4 THE COURT: We deferred it and in-network is
5 out.

6 MR. PORTNOI: I understand that, but I'm just
7 pointing out that there's a statement that there was an
8 indepth of in limine ruling. To my knowledge, maybe
9 you are deferring it to now.

10 THE COURT: No. I deferred it to the time
11 trial.

12 MR. PORTNOI: I don't think Your Honor has
13 ruled on it.

14 THE COURT: I consistently kept all of the
15 in-network stuff out.

16 MR. PORTNOI: I just want to be clear. But
17 there was an inference that we didn't provide Mr. Diehl
18 what's in the in limine ruling. The in limine rulings
19 had not actually touched in-network rates.

20 MR. McMANIS: That's not to be the suggestion
21 if that's what was interpreted.

22 MR. PORTNOI: I guess the other piece is to
23 say I also would, likewise at closing, not want to see
24 statements that Mr. Diehl violated an order or that
25 Mr. Diehl did something improper in that way.

1 THE COURT: I think the scope of what would
2 come in about in-network had been determined before he
3 took the stand so.

4 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, as a non-lawyer
5 being asked questions and being asked questions about
6 the basis of, again, the jury asking what did the
7 Brookings Institute authors do, everyone in that room,
8 plaintiffs and defendants, we all read the
9 Brookings Institute report. So plaintiffs, when they
10 went to side bar, presumably, knew because it's their
11 exhibit. Their report is not our exhibit. That report
12 was their exhibit. They presumably knew what the
13 Brookings Institute said and what an honest answer to
14 that question would be, and they didn't object to the
15 question.

16 MR. POLSENBERG: I think what Dimitri is
17 worried about is you had said that plaintiffs could
18 argue that he inappropriately said something. I think
19 what we're saying is --

20 THE COURT: If there wasn't an objection
21 before he got off the stand --

22 MR. POLSENBERG: Right.

23 THE COURT: I think that's why I'm inclined
24 to give the instruction.

25 You have the last bite at the apple.

1 MR. McMANIS: Thank you, Your Honor. I think
2 that the issue is not that Mr. Diehl -- this is not
3 something that he was unaware of or was inadvertently
4 stepping over the line. As Your Honor recalls, his
5 entire opinion was based on in-network rates. And he
6 spent four hours on the testimony in direct carefully
7 tiptoeing to avoid going into that. And then at the
8 first opportunity that he had in response to a jury
9 question, a question from the jury, he went beyond what
10 he knew to be the scope, and he inserted that evidence
11 in. So that's why we requested the instruction.

12 THE COURT: I'm going to decline. There was
13 not an objection to the testimony at the time.

14 Let's go to the verdict forms. I can tell
15 you that, you know, the proposed, what I had in mind
16 was if you find for the defendant, and, if so, go to
17 paragraph whatever. If you find for the plaintiff,
18 then you walk through the plaintiff's proposed verdict
19 form rather than having two verdict forms, one for the
20 defendant, one for the plaintiff, I think there should
21 just be one. Are you guys following me?

22 MR. PORTNOI: Yeah. But, I mean, well,
23 Mr. Polsenberg will inform me on the intricacies of
24 general verdict forms and special verdict forms.

25 MR. POLSENBERG: That's a big issue for me.

1 THE COURT: That would be the general. With
2 regard to the specials, that would follow. I think we
3 argue first the form and then get to the specials.

4 MR. POLSENBERG: I think one of the issues
5 that I'm concerned about is if we do interrogatories
6 without a general verdict form.

7 THE COURT: No. No. We will have a general
8 verdict form, but it will give them the option for the
9 defendant. If so, skip to the end. If you find for
10 the plaintiff, then you go by entity, by plaintiff
11 entities and defendant entities. And the way that the
12 plaintiffs' proposed general verdict form was
13 presented, from there, you get the special after you
14 have a general form.

15 MR. POLSENBERG: Okay. We can look at it
16 either as special verdict forms or interrogatories
17 following the general verdict form.

18 THE COURT: Right.

19 MR. POLSENBERG: This verdict form is a bear.

20 THE COURT: It's a bear.

21 MS. ROBINSON: So which one are we looking
22 at?

23 THE COURT: I had looked at all of them and
24 marked them up last week and left them at work. So the
25 plaintiffs' proposed general verdict forms, to me,

1 seemed fair, but it should first give them the option
2 of finding for the defendant.

3 MR. PORTNOI: Your Honor, the plaintiffs'
4 general verdict form doesn't actually, as far as I can
5 tell, it doesn't actually ask the jurors to rule, to
6 define any claim in anyone's favor. It just goes
7 straight to damages.

8 MR. POLSENBERG: I think the Judge is saying
9 the general verdict form -- I have it here -- the
10 general verdict form should, in the beginning, say
11 whether they're ruling for the plaintiff or the
12 defendant, and where the current version now only has
13 them ruling for the plaintiff. So they could start
14 with saying, we have a general verdict form for the
15 defendant. If you enter general verdict form for the
16 defendant, skip to the end. Then if you are finding
17 for the plaintiffs, then they have to go through and
18 break everything down.

19 So I don't think the Judge is saying the way
20 they break it down is better than the way we break it
21 down. She's just saying we should have a general
22 verdict form up front.

23 Am I accurately --

24 THE COURT: Yes.

25 MR. POLSENBERG: Thank you, Your Honor.

1 MS. ROBINSON: So then I guess the big
2 question is whether you're inclined to go the way we
3 break it down versus the way they break it down. I
4 have actually had another -- I'm just trying to figure
5 out. So I had submitted a more detailed, but not as
6 detailed as theirs, verdict. And I just don't see it
7 in the packet. So I need to pull that out.

8 MR. PORTNOI: I'm not aware of one. I'm not
9 saying it didn't happen, but it would only be missing
10 due to inadvertence.

11 MS. ROBINSON: No. I know. There's been a
12 lot flying around.

13 THE COURT: I didn't find anything
14 objectionable in either of the proposed special verdict
15 forms.

16 MR. POLSENBERG: But then you didn't see my
17 draft.

18 MS. ROBINSON: So we submitted a more
19 detailed verdict form today. No. No. Two days ago.
20 It was Friday.

21 THE COURT: Oh, you know, I don't think that
22 one made it into this binder. I have a temp JEA. It
23 came in too late.

24 MS. ROBINSON: So this is the one that was
25 submitted on Friday. And I think this is a nice

1 compromise between the 30-something page form. And I'm
2 just handing you the one submitted Friday.

3 THE COURT: Defendants, do you guys have this
4 and have you looked at it?

5 MR. PORTNOI: I'm confident we have.

6 MS. ROBINSON: It was filed.

7 THE COURT: Because I'm inclined to take it
8 up at 5:00 tomorrow to give you a chance to be
9 prepared.

10 MR. PORTNOI: I think that would make some
11 sense.

12 MR. POLSENBERG: That's a good idea.

13 THE COURT: And I don't think you guys heard
14 me. They don't have this. So I'm inclined to take
15 this up tomorrow at 5:00 at the close of the evidence.

16 MS. ROBINSON: Also, I understand it's 6:30.

17 THE COURT: It's my bewitching hour. Okay.
18 Does that pretty much wrap us up for tonight and does
19 anyone have anything else for the record?

20 MS. ROBINSON: We don't, Your Honor, not for
21 the plaintiff.

22 THE COURT: My husband is always five minutes
23 late and I am always five minutes early so we have an
24 extra five minutes or 10, I guess.

25 Off the record.

1 (Whereupon, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30

2 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER


2 STATE OF NEVADA)
3) ss:
4 COUNTY OF CLARK)

5 I, Kimberly A. Farkas, a Certified Court Reporter
6 licensed by the State of Nevada, do hereby certify:
7 That I reported the meeting of counsel before the Court
8 held on November 21, 2021, at 3:15 p.m.

9 That I thereafter transcribed my said
10 stenographic notes into written form, and that the
11 typewritten transcript is a complete, true and accurate
12 transcription of my said stenographic notes; that
13 review of the transcript was not requested.

14 I further certify that I am not a relative,
15 employee or independent contractor of counsel or of any
16 of the parties involved in the proceeding; nor a person
17 financially interested in the proceeding.

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my
19 office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this
20 22nd day of November, 2021.

21 
22 _____
Kimberly A. Farkas, CCR NO. 741

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