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.

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,

us.

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

Real Parties in Interest.

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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.

Electronic notification will be sent to the following:

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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:

The Honorable Nancy L. Allf DISTRICT COURT JUDGE – DEPT. 27 200 Lewis Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

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185.	Defendants and Data iSight expected that those unreasonable payments would be
accepted in fu	ll satisfaction of the Health Care Providers' claims.

- 186. Defendants and Data iSight have received, and continue to receive, financial gains from their scheme to defraud the Health Care Providers.
- 187. For the services that the Health Care Providers provided to Defendants' Members in 2019, only 13% of the non-participating claims have, to date, been reimbursed at reasonable rates, resulting in millions of dollars in financial loss to the Health Care Providers.
- The purpose of, and the direct and proximate result of the above-alleged Enterprise and scheme was, and continues to be, to unlawfully reimburse the Health Care Providers at unreasonable rates, to the harm of the Health Care Providers, and to the benefit of the Enterprise.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of Implied-in-Fact Contract)

- 189. The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 190. At all material times, the Health Care Providers were obligated under federal and Nevada law to provide emergency medicine services to all patients presenting at the emergency departments they staff, including Defendants' Patients.
- At all material times, Defendants were obligated to provide coverage for 191. emergency medicine services to all of its Members.
- 192. At all material times, Defendants knew that the Health Care Providers were nonparticipating emergency medicine groups that provided emergency medicine services to Patients.
- 193. From July 1, 2017 to the present, Fremont has undertaken to provide emergency medicine services to UH Parties' Patients, and the UH Parties have undertaken to pay for such services provided to UH Parties' Patients. And from prior to May 2015 to the present, Team Physicians and Ruby Crest have undertaken to provide emergency medicine services to UH

Parties' Patients, and the UH Parties have undertaken to pay for such services provided to UH Parties' Patients.

- 194. From approximately March 1, 2019 to the present Fremont has undertaken to provide emergency medicine services to the Sierra Affiliates' and HPN's Patients, and Sierra Affiliates and HPN have undertaken to pay for such services provided to their Patients. And from prior to May 2015 to the present, Team Physicians and Ruby Crest have undertaken to provide emergency medicine services to Sierra Affiliates' and HPN's Patients, and Sierra Affiliates and HPN have undertaken to pay for such services provided to their Patients.
- 195. At all material times, Defendants were aware that the Health Care Providers were entitled to and expected to be paid at rates in accordance with the standards established under Nevada law.
- 196. At all material times, Defendants have received the Health Care Providers' bills for the emergency medicine services the Health Care Providers have provided and continue to provide to Defendants' Patients, and Defendants have consistently adjudicated and paid, and continue to adjudicate and pay, the Health Care Providers directly for the non-participating claims, albeit at amounts less than usual and customary.
- 197. Through the parties' conduct and respective undertaking of obligations concerning emergency medicine services provided by the Health Care Providers to Defendants' Patients, the parties implicitly agreed, and the Health Care Providers had a reasonable expectation and understanding, that Defendants would reimburse the Health Care Providers for non-participating claims at rates in accordance with the standards acceptable under Nevada law and in accordance with rates Defendants pay for other substantially identical claims also submitted by the Health Care Providers.
- 198. Under Nevada common law, including the doctrine of quantum meruit, the Defendants, by undertaking responsibility for payment to the Health Care Providers for the services rendered to Defendants' Patients, impliedly agreed to reimburse the Health Care Providers at rates, at a minimum, equivalent to the reasonable value of the professional emergency medical services provided by the Health Care Providers.

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199. Defendants, by undertaking responsibility for payment to the Health Care Providers for the services rendered to the Defendants' Patients, impliedly agreed to reimburse the Health Care Providers at rates, at a minimum, equivalent to the usual and customary rate or alternatively for the reasonable value of the professional emergency medical services provided by the Health Care Providers.

- 200. In breach of its implied contract with the Health Care Providers, Defendants have and continue to unreasonably and systemically adjudicate the non-participating claims at rates substantially below both the usual and customary fees in the geographic area and the reasonable value of the professional emergency medical services provided by the Health Care Providers to the Defendants' Patients.
- 201. The Health Care Providers have performed all obligations under the implied contract with the Defendants concerning emergency medical services to be performed for Patients.
- 202. At all material times, all conditions precedent have occurred that were necessary for Defendants to perform their obligations under their implied contract to pay the Health Care Providers for the non-participating claims, at a minimum, based upon the "usual and customary fees in that locality" or the reasonable value of the Health Care Providers' professional emergency medicine services
- 203. The Health Care Providers did not agree that the lower reimbursement rates paid by Defendants were reasonable or sufficient to compensate the Health Care Providers for the emergency medical services provided to Patients.
- The Health Care Providers have suffered damages in an amount equal to the difference between the amounts paid by Defendants and the usual and customary fees professional emergency medicine services in the same locality, that remain unpaid by Defendants through the date of trial, plus the Health Care Providers' loss of use of that money; or in an amount equal to the difference between the amounts paid by Defendants and the reasonable value of their professional emergency medicine services, that remain unpaid by the Defendants through the date of trial, plus the Health Care Providers' loss of use of that money.

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205. As a result of the Defendants' breach of the implied contract to pay the Health Care Providers for the non-participating claims at the rates required by Nevada law, the Health Care Providers have suffered injury and is entitled to monetary damages from Defendants to compensate them for that injury in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs and attorneys' fees, the exact amount of which will be proven at the time of trial.

206. The Health Care Providers have been forced to retain counsel to prosecute this action and is entitled to receive their costs and attorneys' fees incurred herein.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Tortious Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing)

- The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 208. The Health Care Providers and Defendants had a valid implied-in-fact contract as alleged herein.
- 209. A special element of reliance or trust between the Health Care Providers and the Defendants, such that, Defendants were in a superior or entrusted position of knowledge.
- 210. That the Health Care Providers performed all or substantially all of their obligations pursuant to the implied-in-fact contract.
- 211. By paying substantially low rates that did not reasonably compensate the Health Care Providers the usual and customary rate or alternatively for the reasonable value of the services provide, Defendants performed in a manner that was unfaithful to the purpose of the implied-in-fact contract, or deliberately contravened the intention and sprit of the contract.
 - 212. That Defendants' conduct was a substantial factor in causing damage to Fremont.
- 213. As a result of Defendants' tortious breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, the Health Care Providers have suffered injury and is entitled to monetary damages from Defendants to compensate them for that injury in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs and attorneys' fees, the exact amount of which will be proven at the time of trial.

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214.	The acts	and	omissions	of	Defendants	as	alleged	herein	were	attended	by
circumstance	s of malice	e, opp	ression an	d/or	fraud, there	eby	justifyin	g an av	vard o	f punitive	or
exemplary damages in an amount to be proven at trial.											

The Health Care Providers have been forced to retain counsel to prosecute this 215. action and is entitled to receive their costs and attorneys' fees incurred herein.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Alternative Claim for Unjust Enrichment)

- 216. The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
 - 217. The Health Care Providers rendered valuable emergency services to the Patients.
- Defendants received the benefit of having their healthcare obligations to their 218. plan members discharged and their members received the benefit of the emergency care provided to them by the Health Care Providers.
- As insurers or plan administrators, Defendants were reasonably notified that 219. emergency medicine service providers such as the Health Care Providers would expect to be paid by Defendants for the emergency services provided to Patients.
- 220. Defendants accepted and retained the benefit of the services provided by the Health Care Providers at the request of the members of its Health Plans, knowing that the Health Care Providers expected to be paid a usual and customary fee based on locality, or alternatively for the reasonable value of services provided, for the medically necessary, covered emergency medicine services it performed for Defendants' Patients.
- Defendants have received a benefit from the Health Care Providers' provision of services to its Patients and the resulting discharge of their healthcare obligations owed to their Patients.
- 222. Under the circumstances set forth above, it is unjust and inequitable for Defendants to retain the benefit they received without paying the value of that benefit; i.e., by paying the Health Care Providers at usual and customary rates, or alternatively for the reasonable value of services provided, for the claims that are the subject of this action and for all

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emergency medicine services that the Health Care Providers will continue to provide to Defendants' Members.

- 223. The Health Care Providers seek compensatory damages in an amount which will continue to accrue through the date of trial as a result of Defendants' continuing unjust enrichment.
- 224. As a result of the Defendants' actions, the Health Care Providers have been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs and attorneys' fees, the exact amount of which will be proven at the time of trial.
- The Health Care Providers sue for the damages caused by the Defendants' conduct and is entitled to recover the difference between the amount the Defendants' paid for emergency care the Health Care Providers rendered to its members and the reasonable value of the service that the Health Care Providers rendered to Defendants by discharging their obligations to their plan members.
- As a direct result of the Defendants' acts and omissions complained of herein, it 226. has been necessary for the Health Care Providers to retain legal counsel and others to prosecute their claims. The Health Care Providers are thus entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violation of NRS 686A.020 and 686A.310)

- 227. The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 228. The Nevada Insurance Code prohibits an insurer from engaging in an unfair settlement practices. NRS 686A.020, 686A.310.
- 229. One prohibited unfair claim settlement practice is "[f]ailing to effectuate prompt, fair and equitable settlements of claims in which liability of the insurer has become reasonably clear." NRS 686A.310(1)(e).
- 230. As detailed above, Defendants have failed to comply with NRS 686A.310(1)(e) by failing to pay the Health Care Providers' medical professionals the usual and customary rate

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for emergency care provided to Defendants' members. By failing to pay the Health Care Providers' medical professionals the usual and customary rate Defendants have violated NRS 686A.310(1)(e) and committed an unfair settlement practice.

- The Health Care Providers are therefore entitled to recover the difference between the amount Defendants paid for emergency care the Health Care Providers rendered to their members and the usual and customary rate, plus court costs and attorneys' fees.
- 232. The Health Care Providers are entitled to damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00, exclusive of interest, costs and attorneys' fees, the exact amount of which will be proven at the time of trial.
- 233. Defendants have acted in bad faith regarding their obligation to pay the usual and customary fee; therefore, the Health Care Providers are entitled to recover punitive damages against Defendants.
- 234. As a direct result of Defendants' acts and omissions complained of herein, it has been necessary for the Health Care Providers to retain legal counsel and others to prosecute their claims. The Health Care Providers are thus entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violations of Nevada Prompt Pay Statutes & Regulations)

- 235. The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 236. The Nevada Insurance Code requires an HMO, MCO or other health insurer to pay a healthcare provider's claim within 30 days of receipt of a claim. NRS 683A.0879 (third party administrator), NRS 689A.410 (Individual Health Insurance), NRS 689B.255 (Group and Blanket Health Insurance), NRS 689C.485 (Health Insurance for Small Employers), NRS 695C.185 (HMO), NAC 686A.675 (all insurers) (collectively, the "NV Prompt Pay Laws"). Thus, for all submitted claims, Defendants were obligated to pay the Health Care Providers the usual and customary rate within 30 days of receipt of the claim.

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- 237. Despite this obligation, as alleged herein, Defendants have failed to reimburse the Health Care Providers at the usual and customary rate within 30 days of the submission of the claim. Indeed, Defendants failed to reimburse the Health Care Providers at the usual and customary rate at all. Because Defendants have failed to reimburse the Health Care Providers at the usual and customary rate within 30 days of submission of the claims as the Nevada Insurance Code requires, Defendants are liable to the Health Care Providers for statutory penalties.
- For all claims payable by plans that Defendants insure wherein it failed to pay at 238. the usual and customary fee within 30 days, Defendants are liable to the Health Care Providers for penalties as provided for in the Nevada Insurance Code.
- 239. Additionally, Defendants have violated NV Prompt Pay Laws, by among things, only paying part of the subject claims that have been approved and are fully payable.
- 240. The Health Care Providers seek penalties payable to it for late-paid and partially paid claims under the NV Prompt Pay Laws.
- 241. The Health Care Providers are entitled to damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00 to be determined at trial, including for its loss of the use of the money and its attorneys' fees.
- 242. Under the Nevada Insurance Code and NV Prompt Pay Laws, the Health Care Providers are also entitled to recover their reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Consumer Fraud & Deceptive Trade Practices Acts)

- 243. The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- The Nevada Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA) prohibits the UH Parties from engaging in "deceptive trade practices," including but not limited to (1) knowingly making a false representation in a transaction; (2) violating "a state or federal statute or regulation relating to the sale or lease of goods or services"; (3) using "coercion, duress or intimidation in a

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transaction"; and (4) knowingly misrepresent the "legal rights, obligations or remedies of a party to a transaction." NRS 598.0915(15), 598.0923(3), 598.0923(4), NRS 598.092(8), respectively.

- The Nevada Consumer Fraud Statute provides that a legal action "may be 245. brought by any person who is a victim of consumer fraud." NRS 41.600(1). "Consumer fraud" includes a deceptive trade practice as defined by the DTPA.
- 246. Defendants have violated the DTPA and the Consumer Fraud Statute through their acts, practices, and omissions described above, including but not limited to (a) wrongfully refusing to pay the Health Care Providers for the medically necessary, covered emergency services the Health Care Providers provided to Members in order to gain unfair leverage against the Health Care Providers now that they are out-of-network and in contract negotiations to potentially become a participating provider under a new contract in an effort to force the Health Care Providers to accept lower amounts than it is entitled for its services; and (b) engaging in systematic efforts to delay adjudication and payment of the Health Care Providers' claims for its services provided to UH Parties' members in violation of their legal obligations
- As a result of Defendants' violations of the DTPA and the Consumer Fraud Statute, the Health Care Providers are entitled to damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00 to be determined at trial.
- 248. Due to the willful and knowing engagement in deceptive trade practices, the Health Care Providers are entitled to recover treble damages and all profits derived from the knowing and willful violation.
- As a direct result of Defendants' acts and omissions complained of herein, it has 249. been necessary for the Health Care Providers to retain legal counsel and others to prosecute their claims. The Health Care Providers is thus entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein.

SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Declaratory Judgment)

250. The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.

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251. This is a claim for declaratory judgment and actual damages pursuant to NRS 30.010 *et seg*.

- 252. As explained above, pursuant to federal and Nevada law, Defendants are required to cover and pay the Health Care Providers for the medically necessary, covered emergency medicine services the Health Care Providers have provided and continue to provide to Defendants' members.
- 253. Under Nevada law, Defendants are required to pay the Health Care Providers the usual and customary rate for that emergency care. Instead of reimbursing the Health Care Providers at the usual and customary rate or for the reasonable value of the professional medical services, Defendants have reimbursed them at reduced rates with no relation to the usual and customary rate.
- 254. Beginning in or about July 2017, Fremont became out-of-network with the UH Parties; and Team Physicians and Ruby Crest have never been in-network with the UH Parties. Since then, the UH Parties have demonstrated their refusal to timely settle insurance claims submitted by the Health Care Providers and have failed to pay the usual and customary rate based on this locality in violation of UH Parties' obligations under the Nevada Insurance Code, the parties' implied-in-fact contract and pursuant to Nevada law of unjust enrichment and quantum merit.
- 255. Beginning in or about March 2019, Fremont became out-of-network with the Sierra Affiliates and HPN and Physicians and Ruby Crest have never been in-network with the Sierra Affiliates or HPN. Upon information and belief, the Sierra Affiliates and HPN are failing to timely settle insurance claims submitted by the Health Care Providers and to pay the usual and customary rate based on this locality in violation of the Sierra Affiliates' and HPN's obligations under the Nevada Insurance Code, the parties' implied-in-fact contract and pursuant to Nevada law of unjust enrichment and quantum merit.
- 256. An actual, justiciable controversy therefore exists between the parties regarding the rate of payment for the Health Care Providers' emergency care that is the usual and customary rate that Defendants are obligated to pay.

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	257.	Pursuant to NRS 30.040 and 30.050, the Health Care Providers therefore request
a decl	aration	establishing the usual and customary rates that they are entitled to receive for
claims	betwee	n July 1, 2017 and trial, as well as a declaration that the UH Parties are required to
pay to	the Hea	alth Care Providers at a usual and customary rate for claims submitted thereafter.

- 258. Pursuant to NRS 30.040 and 30.050, Team Physicians and Ruby Crest therefore request a declaration establishing the usual and customary rates that they are entitled to receive for claims between July 1, 2017 and trial, as well as a declaration that the Sierra Affiliates and HPN are required to pay to Team Physicians and Ruby Crest at a usual and customary rate for claims submitted thereafter.
- 259. Pursuant to NRS 30.040 and 30.050, Fremont therefore request a declaration establishing the usual and customary rates that Fremont is entitled to receive for claims between March 1, 2019 and trial, as well as a declaration that the Sierra Affiliates and HPN are required to pay to Fremont at a usual and customary rate for claims submitted thereafter.
- 260. As a direct result of Defendants' acts and omissions complained of herein, it has been necessary for the Health Care Providers to retain legal counsel and others to prosecute their claims. The Health Care Providers are thus entitled to an award of attorneys' fees and costs of suit incurred herein.

EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violation of NRS 207.350 et seq.)

- 261. The Health Care Providers incorporate herein by reference the allegations set forth in the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 262. Nevada RICO allows a private cause of action for racketeering. NRS 207.470 provides in pertinent part that:

Any person who is injured in his or her business or property by reason of any violation of NRS 207.400 has a cause of action against a person causing such injury for three times the actual damages sustained. An injured person may also recover attorney's fees in the trial and appellate courts and costs of investigation and litigation reasonably incurred.

263. This claim arises under NRS 207.400(b), (c), (d) and (j).

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264. The Defendants committed the following crimes of racketeering activity: NRS 207.360(28) (obtaining possession of money or property valued at \$650 or more), NRS 207.360(35) (any violation of NRS 205.377), and NRS 207.360(36) (involuntary servitude).

- 265. The Defendants engaged in racketeering enterprises as defined by NRS 207.380 involving their fraudulent misrepresentations to the Health Care Providers, and failing to pay and retaining significant sums of money that should have been paid to them for emergency medicine services provided to the Defendants' Members, but instead were directed to themselves and/or Data iSight.
- As set forth above, since at least January 2019, Defendants have been and continue to be, a part of an association-in-fact enterprise within the meaning of NRS 207.380, comprised of at least Defendants and Data iSight, and which Enterprise was and is engaged in activities that span multiple states and affect interstate commerce and/or committed preparatory acts in furtherance thereof.
- Each of the Defendants has an existence separate and distinct from the Enterprise, 267. in addition to directly participating and acting as a part of the Enterprise.
- Defendants and Data iSight had, and continue to have, the common and 268. continuing purpose of dramatically reducing allowed provider reimbursement rates for their own pecuniary gain, by defrauding the Health Care Providers and preventing them from obtaining reasonable payment for the services they provided to Defendants' Members, in retaliation for the Health Care Providers' lawful refusal to agree to Defendants' massively discounted and unreasonable proposed contractual rates.
- Since at least January 2019, the Defendants, have been and continue to be, engaged in preparations and implementation of a scheme to defraud the Health Care Providers by committing a series of unlawful acts designed to obtain a financial benefit by means of false or fraudulent pretenses, representations, promises or material omissions which constitute predicate unlawful activity under NRS 207.390 involving multiple instances of obtaining possession of money or property valued at \$650 or more; multiple transactions involving fraud or deceit in course of enterprise or occupation and involuntary servitude in violation of NRS

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200.463. The Defendants have engaged in more than two related and continuous acts amounting to racketeering activity in violation of NRS 207.400(1)(a)-(d), (1)(f), (1)(h)-(i) pursuant to a scheme or artifice to defraud and to which the Defendants have committed for financial benefit and gain to the detriment of the Health Care Providers. The Defendants, on more than two occasions, have schemed with Data iSight to artificially and, without foundation, substantially decrease non-participating provider reimbursement rates while continuing to represent that the reimbursement rates are based on legitimate cost data or paid data.

- 270. The foregoing acts establish racketeering activity and are related to each other in that they further the joint goal of unfairly and illegally retaining financial benefit to the detriment of the Health Care Providers. In each of the examples provided herein, the acts alleged to establish a pattern of unlawful activity are related because they have the same or similar pattern, intents, results, accomplices, victims or methods of commission, or are otherwise interrelated by distinguishing characteristics and are not isolated incidents.
- Each Defendant provides benefits to insured members, processes claims for 271. services provided to members, and/or issues payments for services and knows and willingly participates in the scheme to defraud the Health Care Providers.
- 272. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' violations of NRS 207.360(28), (35) and (36), the Health Care Providers have sustained a reasonably foreseeable injury in their business or property by a pattern of racketeering activity, suffering substantial financial losses, in an amount to be proven at trial, in violation of NRS 207.470.
- Pursuant to NRS 207.470, the Health Care Providers are entitled to damages for 273. three times the actual damages sustained, recovery of attorneys' fees in the trial and appellate courts and costs of investigation and litigation reasonably incurred.

REQUEST FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, the Health Care Providers request the following relief:

- A. For awards of general and special damages in amounts in excess of \$15,000.00, the exact amounts of which will be proven at trial;
 - В. Judgment in their favor on the First Amended Complaint;

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C.	Awards of actual,	consequential,	general,	and special	damages i	n an	amount	in
excess of \$15	,000.00, the exact a	mounts of which	h will be	proven at tri	al;			

- D. An award of punitive damages, the exact amount of which will be proven at trial;
- E. A declaratory judgment that Defendants' failure to pay the Health Care Providers a usual and customary fee or rate for this locality or alternatively, for the reasonable value of their services violates the Nevada law, breaches the parties' implied-in-fact contract, is a tortious breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and violates Nevada common law;
- An order permanently enjoining Defendants from paying rates that do not F. represent usual and customary fees or rates for this locality or alternatively, that do not compensate the Health Care Providers for the reasonable value of their services; and enjoining Defendants and enjoining Defendants from engaging in acts or omissions that are violative of Nevada law;
- G. Judgment against the Defendants and in favor of the Health Care Providers pursuant to the Eighth Claim for Relief in an amount constituting treble damages resulting from Defendants' underpayments to the Health Care Providers for the reasonable value of the emergency services provided to Defendants' Members and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing this action;
- Н. The Health Care Providers costs and reasonable attorneys' fees pursuant to NRS 207.470;
 - I. Reasonable attorneys' fees and court costs;
- J. Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest rates permitted by law; and
- K. Such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper.
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The Health Care Providers hereby demand trial by jury on all issues so triable.

DATED this 7th day of January, 2020.

McDONALD CARANO LLP

By: /s/ Pat Lundvall
Pat Lundvall (NSBN 3761)
Kristen T. Gallagher (NSBN 9561)
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McDONALD CARANO 2300 WEST SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 1200 • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102 PHONE 702.873.4100 • FAX 702.873.9966

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of McDonald Carano LLP, and that on this 7th day of January, 2020, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing **FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT** to be served via the U.S. District Court's Notice of Electronic Filing system ("NEF") in the above-captioned case, upon the following:

D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq.
Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq.
Josephine E. Groh, Esq.
WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS,
GUNN & DIAL, LLC
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Attorneys for Defendants UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company, United HealthCare Services, Inc., UMR, Inc., Oxford Health Plans Inc., Sierra Health and Life Insurance Co., Inc., Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc., and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc.

/s/ Marianne Carter
An employee of McDonald Carano LLP

EXHIBIT 24

EXHIBIT 24

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1 **MOT** D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq. Nevada Bar No. 8877 lroberts@wwhgd.com 3 Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 13066 4 cbalkenbush@wwhgd.com Brittany M. Llewellyn, Esa. 5 Nevada Bar No. 13527 bllewellyn@wwhgd.com 6 WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC 6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400 ENTERED kl Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 8 Telephone: (702) 938-3838 Facsimile: (702) 938-3864 9 Attorneys for Defendants 10 **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., 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

HEARING REQUESTED

DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL PRODUCTION OF CLINICAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE AT-ISSUE CLAIMS AND DEFENSES AND TO COMPEL PLAINTIFFS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR NRCP 16.1 INITIAL DISCLOSURES ON AN ORDER SHORTENING TIME

Page 1 of 20

Defendants UnitedHealth Group, Inc.; UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company; United HealthCare Services, Inc.; UMR, Inc.; Oxford Health Plans LLC (incorrectly named as "Oxford Health Plans, Inc."); Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc.; Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc. and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. (collectively, "United" or "Defendants"), hereby move to compel Plaintiffs' responses to certain of Defendants' document requests and to compel Plaintiffs to supplement their NRCP 16.1 Initial Disclosures. As explained in the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the Declaration of Colby L. Balkenbush, the exhibits attached thereto, the pleadings and papers on file herein, and any argument presented at the time of hearing on this matter, this motion should be granted.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Colby L. Balkenbush

D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq.
Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq.
Brittany M. Llewellyn, Esq.
Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins,
Gunn & Dial, LLC
6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Telephone: (702) 938-3838
Facsimile: (702) 938-3864

Attorneys for Defendants

DECLARATION OF COLBY L. BALKENBUSH, ESQ._IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL

- 1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada, an attorney at Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC, counsel for Defendants in the above-captioned matter.
- 2. This Declaration is submitted in support of Defendants' Motion to Compel Production of Clinical Records for At-Issue Claims and Defenses and to Compel Plaintiffs to Supplement Their NRCP 16.1 Initial Disclosures. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein and, unless otherwise stated, am competent to testify to the same if called upon to do so.
- 3. On June 28, 2019, Defendants served their first set of written discovery on Plaintiffs, inclusive of Requests for Production of Documents. **Exhibit 1.**
- 4. On July 29, 2019, Fremont responded to Defendants' First Set of Requests for Production of Documents. **Exhibit 2.**
- 5. In response to Defendants' Request for Production No. 6 ("Request No. 6") seeking discovery of Clinical Records, Plaintiffs produced only an Excel spreadsheet stamped FESM000344 (the "Claims Spreadsheet") and a litany of boilerplate objections. **Exhibit 2.** The Claims Spreadsheet, however, merely summarizes the claims Plaintiffs contend are at issue and includes very basic data points, such as (1) the amount billed by Plaintiffs, (2) the amount of plan benefits paid, (3) the patient name, (4) the date of service, and (5) CPT codes² to describe the type of services Plaintiffs allegedly rendered to participants of Defendant-administered health plans.

¹ As used in this Motion, the term "Clinical Records" is intended to be consistent with the definition of "health care records" in NRS 629.021 to mean Plaintiffs' provider or facility records, including, but not limited to, medical charts, patient medical history, patient files, medical records, providers' notes, treatment plans, assessments, diagnoses, pharmacy and medication records, testing and laboratory records and results, radiology images and reports, and providers' orders, and records of all procedures, treatments, and services rendered related to a specific claim. This definition also encompasses electronic medical and health records.

² The Current Procedural Terminology ("CPT") code set is a medical code set maintained by the American Medical Association through the CPT Editorial Panel.

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- 6. On January 23, 2020, I sent a letter detailing the deficiencies in Plaintiffs' responses to Defendants' written discovery requests discussed in paragraph 3 supra, including a request that Plaintiffs "provide an estimate of the amount of time it would take to compile the documents at issue in this Request and the accompanying costs." Exhibit 3. I also requested that the parties attend a telephonic conference to discuss the issues. *Id.*
- On February 13, 2020, I and my colleague, Brittany M. Llewellyn, attended a telephonic meet and confer with Plaintiffs' counsel, Kristen Gallagher and Amanda Perach, regarding the issues stated in Defendants' January 23, 2020 correspondence. conference, Plaintiffs confirmed that they would not supplement their responses to Request No. 6 or produce discovery of any Clinical Records.
- 8. Later that same day, Ms. Llewellyn sent correspondence to Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Perach summarizing our conference call and the parties' respective positions. Exhibit 4. In the February 13, 2020 email correspondence, Ms. Llewellyn advised Ms. Gallagher and Ms. Perach that, without any agreement to supplement, Defendants would be filing a motion to compel as to Plaintiffs' deficient response to Request No. 6. Exhibit 4.
- 9. To date, Plaintiffs have not produced discovery of any Clinical Records for any of their claims in the Claims Spreadsheet, despite receiving Defendants' Request No. 6 on June 28, 2019. This amounts to a delay of over 14 months.
- 10. Defendants hoped to avoid this Motion by reaching a reasonable compromise, but it is now apparent that Plaintiffs do not intend to produce discovery of Clinical Records for any of their claims in the Claims Spreadsheet, which will severely prejudice Defendants' ability to defend against Plaintiffs' claims
- 11. In addition, Plaintiffs' initial disclosures were produced on October 2, 2019. However, to date, Plaintiffs have not produced any Explanation of Benefits ("EOB") or Provider Remittance Advice ("PRA") documents. Despite this, Plaintiffs have produced the Claims Spreadsheet that contains damages calculations based on data allegedly pulled from EOBs and PRAs. Thus, such documents should have been produced with Plaintiffs' initial disclosures.
 - 12. The discovery cutoff in this matter is December 31, 2020.

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- 13. Based on the foregoing, Defendants request that this Court set this Motion to Compel on an order shortening time to resolve this narrow and important dispute. Specifically, and in accordance with the Court's statements at the September 9, 2020 hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel, Defendants request that the hearing be set at the same time as the previously scheduled September 30, 2020 status conference. This request is in accordance with the Court's directive at the September 9, 2020 hearing, where the Court stated, "then if you guys have Motion to Compel on either side, because I heard it from both sides, I would consider those also on the 30th." Exhibit 5 (Transcript at 64:10-12).
- 14. Defendants also respectfully submit that good cause exists to grant the order shortening time because the narrow and important discovery issues that are involved in Defendants' Motion should be quickly heard and adjudicated, given (1) the upcoming discovery deadline and (2) Plaintiffs' flat refusal to produce the requested discovery, which is critical to Defendants' defenses.
- I declare that the foregoing is true and correct under the penalty of perjury under 15. the laws of the state of Nevada.

DATED: September 18, 2020

/s/ Colby L. Balkenbush Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq.

ORDER SHORTENING TIME

Good ca	ause appearin	g therefor, IT	IS HEREB	ORDERED	that the hea	aring on
DEFENDANTS	s' MOTIO	N TO CO	OMPEL PR	ODUCTION	OF CL	INICAL
DOCUMENTS	FOR AT-I	SSUE CLAI	MS AND D	EFENSES A	ND TO CO	OMPEL
PLAINTIFFS'	TO SUPPLE	EMENT THE	IR NRCP 16	1 INITIAL D	OISCLOSUR	ES shall
be shortened and	d heard before	the above-ent	itled Court in	Department X	XVII on the _	30th _{day}
ofSeptemb	oer 2020 at _1	30 a.m./p.r	n., or as soon	thereafter as c	ounsel may b	e heard;
that Plaintiffs'	opposition, if	any, shall be	electronically	filed and ser	ved on or be	efore the
day of		, 2020.				

Dated this 21st day of September, 2020

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

F28 481 989B 127A Nancy Allf District Court Judge

Submitted By:

WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC

/s/ Colby L. Balkenbush

Attorneys for Defendants

D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 8877
Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 13066
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

This Court is familiar with the basics of the dispute before it. The TeamHealth Nevada Plaintiffs ("Plaintiffs") are private-equity backed out-of-network healthcare providers who have asserted an unjust enrichment claim alleging that Defendants have underpaid plan benefits for emergency medical services provided to participants of health plans administered by Defendants. Conversely, Defendants contend that Plaintiffs' charges were grossly inflated, improperly "upcoded," and that Plaintiffs are not entitled to anything more than what has already been paid. Thus, a core question that needs to be resolved under Plaintiffs' legal theory is: What was the reasonable value of the services that Plaintiffs provided and did Defendants adequately reimburse Plaintiffs for that value? *See, e.g.,* First Amended Complaint at ¶ 62 ("Defendants are obligated to reimburse the Health Care Providers . . . for the reasonable value of the services provided."). The instant Motion seeks discovery of the Clinical Records, as defined in Section II, *infra,* to assist in resolving that core question and to allow for a determination as to whether Plaintiffs are entitled to any additional reimbursement for the medical services that they allege underlie each of the at-issue claims.

Plaintiffs' refusal to produce the requested discovery goes hand-in-hand with Plaintiffs' attempts to discharge their burden to prove that they actually performed the services for which they seek over \$26 million dollars in additional reimbursements. They seek to only rely on unverified summary claims data in a spreadsheet stamped FESM000344 (the "Claims Spreadsheet"), 4 which is simply not enough.

In addition, Defendants, for their part, have specifically asserted setoff and other affirmative defenses specifically challenging Plaintiffs' right to the millions of dollars in

³ As detailed more fully in Defendants' May 26, 2020 Motion to Dismiss, and in their pending writ petition, Defendants contend that they were only required to pay Plaintiffs in accordance with Plaintiffs' patients' controlling health plans, but will not reiterate those arguments here in this narrow Motion.

⁴ The Claims Spreadsheet is being produced via email to the Court for *in-camera* review because it contains confidential protected health information that may not be filed in open court pursuant to the Stipulated Protective Order entered on June 24, 2020.

additional reimbursements they claim are due and owing. To prove those defenses, Defendants are entitled to challenge Plaintiffs' performance of the alleged medical services they reported in each of their claims forms, as well as the validity of their claims data. Thus, for Plaintiffs to carry their burden and for Defendants to support their defenses, it is critical that discovery of the Clinical Records be ordered. There is no dispute that claims-specific discovery is appropriate in this case. Indeed, Plaintiffs have already demanded claim-specific discovery from the Defendants and moved to compel Defendants to produce 22,153 administrative records, a motion this Court granted. Defendants now seek a reciprocal and equivalent order from the Court—without it, Defendants will be severely and unfairly prejudiced.

Accordingly, Defendants move to compel Plaintiffs to produce documents responsive to Defendants' Request for Production No. 6 ("Request No. 6"), which was served upon Plaintiffs on June 28, 2019, seeking discovery of the Clinical Records for each of the claims in the Claims Spreadsheet, as well as an order directing Plaintiffs to comply with NRCP 16.1.

II. REQUEST NO. 6 AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Request No. 6 seeks:

6. Please produce all documents concerning the medical treatment that Fremont allegedly provided to the more than 10,800 patients referenced in paragraph 25 of the Complaint.⁵

Request No. 6 was served prior to the filing of Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint, and prior to Plaintiffs placing nearly 7,000 more claims at issue in this case. Request No. 6 should therefore be construed to conform to the pleadings. (Balkenbush Decl. at ¶ 3.) Request No. 6 therefore seeks discovery of the Clinical Records⁶ for the medical services related to all 22,153 claims in the Claims Spreadsheet. *Id*.

⁵ See Defendants' First Set of Requests for Production, Exhibit 1.

⁶ As used in this Motion, the term "Clinical Records" is intended to be consistent with the definition of "health care records" in NRS 629.021 to mean Plaintiffs' provider or facility records, including, but not limited to, medical charts, patient medical history, patient files, medical records, providers' notes, treatment plans, assessments, diagnoses, pharmacy and medication records, testing and laboratory records and results, radiology images and reports, and providers' orders, and records of all procedures, treatments, and services rendered related to a specific claim. This definition also encompasses electronic medical and health records.

As of this date, Plaintiffs have failed to produce discovery for a single Clinical Record for *any* of the claims in the Claim Spreadsheet. Balkenbush Decl. at ¶¶ 10-11. Instead, Plaintiffs have offered boilerplate burden objections, including, in relevant part, that:

The request is overly broad, irrelevant and not proportional to the needs of the case considering the importance of the issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy, the parties' relative access to relevant information, the parties' resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit as this case concerns a dispute over the rate of payment rather than a coverage determination and, consequently, does not concern the medical treatment provided to particular patients. In particular, the medical records of the 10,800 patients referenced in paragraph 25 of the Complaint are records unrelated to the dispute at issue, making such information unimportant to the issues at stake in this action.

Finally, the burden and expense of gathering thousands of medical records, adequately redacting confidential and information protected by HIPAA and producing this exceedingly large file outweighs any benefit.⁷

In lieu of producing the relevant Clinical Records underlying the at-issue claims, Plaintiffs first offered a spreadsheet of an initial 15,210 claims.⁸ Then, when they later supplemented their responses, they produced the Claims Spreadsheet containing 22,153 claims.⁹ (Balkenbush Decl. at ¶ 5.) The information in the Claims Spreadsheet was solely compiled by Plaintiffs and is otherwise unverified.

Separately, as discussed in Section III(D), Defendants seek an order requiring Plaintiffs to comply with NRCP 16.1 and to supplement their initial disclosures from October 2019 by producing certain documents that demonstrate (1) what was billed and paid for each claim in the Claims Spreadsheet, and (2) the values utilized by Plaintiffs for their computation of damages.

⁷ See Plaintiffs' initial responses to Defendants' First Set of Requests for Production, **Exhibit 1**.

⁸ *Id.* and FESM000011.

⁹ See Plaintiffs' supplemental responses to Defendants' First Set of Requests for Production, **Exhibit 6** and FESM000344.

III. LEGAL ARGUMENT

A. Legal Standard for Motion to Compel

NRCP 26(b)(1) allows parties to discover any non-privileged matter "which is relevant to the subject matter involved in the action," including any documents relating to either party's claims and defenses. NRCP 26(b)(1). Because of the broad discovery rules, the party resisting discovery must carry the heavy burden of showing why discovery should be denied. *See Daisy Tr. v. JP Morgan Chase Bank., N.A.*, 2017 WL 3037427, at *2 (D. Nev. July 18, 2017). To meet this burden, "the resisting party must specifically detail the reasons why each request is improper." *Magdaluyo v. MGM Grand Hotel, LLC*, 2016 WL 2731672, at *3 (D. Nev. May 9, 2016).

Defendants' request for discovery of Clinical Records responsive to Request No. 6 is appropriate and proper here because: (1) Plaintiffs have failed to provide support for their undue burden objections; (2) Plaintiffs necessarily must rely on the Clinical Records to carry their burden in proving an entitlement to additional reimbursements on an unjust enrichment theory; and (3) Defendants' defenses require the essential discovery sought by this Motion.

B. Plaintiffs Have Failed to Provide Support For Their Undue Burden Objections By Way of An Affidavit or Declaration

Plaintiffs have objected to producing discovery of Clinical Records on the basis that, *inter alia*, "the burden and expense of gathering thousands of medical records, adequately redacting confidential and information protected by HIPAA and producing this exceedingly large file outweighs any benefit." Defendants, in response, have requested that Plaintiffs provide an estimate of the amount of time it would take to compile the documents and the accompanying costs. Plaintiffs, however, have refused to do so. 12

¹¹ Declaration of Colby L. Balkenbush ¶ 6; **Exhibit 3**.

¹⁰ See Plaintiffs' initial responses to Defendants' First Set of Requests for Production, **Exhibit 1**.

¹² Plaintiffs are for-profit, private equity-backed out-of-network medical providers affiliated with one of the largest national physician management companies in the United States, TeamHealth Holdings, Inc. ("TeamHealth"). They have not offered any affirmation in support of their contention that the production of these records would amount to an undue burden or expense, which is difficult to understand given their TeamHealth affiliation.

As the party resisting discovery, Plaintiffs must demonstrate that the information sought by Defendants is not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. *See* NRCP 26(b)(2)(B). "[A]n objection that a discovery request is 'unduly burdensome' must be supported by a declaration to carry weight." *Bresk v. Unimerica Ins. Co.*, 2017 WL 10439831, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 16, 2017); *see also Jackson v. Montgomery Ward & Co.*, 173 F.R.D. 524, 528–29 (D. Nev. 1997) ("party claiming that a discovery request is unduly burdensome must allege specific facts which indicate the nature and extent of the burden, usually by affidavit or other reliable evidence."). "[T]he fact that discovery may involve some inconvenience or expenses is not sufficient, standing alone, to avoid the discovery process." *Martinez v. James River Ins. Co.*, 2020 WL 1975371, at *1 (D. Nev. Apr. 24, 2020). Plaintiffs should not be allowed to avoid their obligation to demonstrate burden with respect to Request No. 6.¹³

As of this date, Plaintiffs have not withdrawn their burden objections to Request No. 6. Because Plaintiffs' objections lack any evidentiary support, they should be stricken or overruled, and Plaintiffs should be ordered to produce discovery of the Clinical Records for the claims identified in the Claims Spreadsheet, which Plaintiffs put at issue when they filed their Complaint.

C. Plaintiffs Should be Compelled to Produce Discovery of Clinical Records Because They are Critical to the Claims and Defenses in the Case

In addition to their stated burden objections, Plaintiffs have also objected to producing documents responsive to Request No. 6 as "unrelated to the dispute" **Exhibit X**. Plaintiffs' objection is incorrect for a several reasons discussed below.

¹³ Of note, on September 9, 2020, the Court ordered Defendants to produce the administrative records for the 22,153 at-issue claims *despite* Defendants' detailed 5 page burden declaration. Here, no burden declaration has been produced making the case even stronger for ordering production.

1. Defendants have the right to contest the value and performance of the underlying medical services at issue in each of Plaintiffs' claims in the Claims Spreadsheet.

Plaintiffs must prove that the services for which they seek additional reimbursement were actually performed as billed. *See Sacred Heart Health Sys., Inc. v Humana Military Healthcare Serv.'s, Inc.*, No. 3:07-cv-00062-MCR-EMT at *32 (N.D. Fla. Oct. 21, 2011) (plaintiffs who have placed in issue the underpayments "will be required to demonstrate that they performed services identified in the individual claim forms[,] . . . not just that the [p]laintiffs reported the services"). Plaintiffs cannot carry this burden with the "generalized proof" provided in the form of summary claims data alone. *See Sacred Heart*, No. 3:07-cv-00062-MCR-EMT at *17 (N.D. Fla. Mar. 30, 2012) (requiring production of clinical records supporting underpayment claims on the grounds that the claims forms do not "certify that the claim form was accurately coded, that it accurately described the services or the medical need for them, or that the services were *actually performed*") (emphasis added). **Exhibit 7** (Oct. 21, 2011 Order and Mar. 30, 2012 Order).

Even if Plaintiffs' claims data in the Claims Spreadsheet could serve as sufficient evidence for proving performance of the underlying medical services, Defendants have a right to contest that evidence and explore Plaintiffs' contentions through other evidence, including through Plaintiffs' Clinical Records. *See Sacred Heart*, No. 3:07-cv-00062-MCR-EMT at *16-17 (N.D. Fla. Oct. 21, 2011) ("As a matter of due process Defendant [health plan] should be entitled to investigate . . . services not provided or [] monies paid for services for which Plaintiffs were not entitled."). Plaintiffs' objections and refusal to produce discovery of the Clinical Records thus deprives Defendants of that "due process" right. *See id at 21; see also In re Managed Care Litigation*, MDL No. 1334, Master File No. 00-1334-MD-MORENO (S.D. Fla. July 24, 2003 (recognizing that health insurers have a right to discovery on claim-specific documents, such as medical records, in the context of physicians' allegation that the health plan improperly reimbursed their claims). 14

The U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida's decision in the *In re Managed Care* litigation also provides a good example of a decision recognizing a health insurer's right to contest performance. *In re Managed Care* involved, among other things, a breach of contract action by thousands of doctors against the nation's largest health insurers over claims for services allegedly

Plaintiffs effectively ask this Court to *assume* the validity of their claims and the accuracy of their claims data in the Claims Spreadsheet. But by seeking additional reimbursement of plan benefits for the claims for which they have already been paid, Plaintiffs have placed "the accuracy of those claims . . . directly in issue." *Sacred Heart*, No. 3:07-cv-00062-MCR-EMT at *31 (N.D. Fla. Oct. 21, 2011). Defendants are entitled to discovery that may allow them to "challenge the validity of the individual claims," including in the Claims Records. *Sacred Heart*, No. 3:07-cv-00062-MCR-EMT at *31 (N.D. Fla. Mar. 30, 2012) (rejecting plaintiff hospitals' argument that "[the defendant-insurer] should not be permitted to challenge the underlying validity of the claims at issue," and holding that "[the defendant-insurer] has a legal right to go beyond the claim forms" and take discovery on the underlying claims).

Moreover, absent claim-specific proof, it is impossible to know whether there are any errors—be they relatively minor or systemic—in Plaintiffs' claims data in the Claims Spreadsheet. Plaintiffs cannot guarantee the accuracy of the unverified claims data and the performance of the underlying services by their own say-so; rather, they must produce discovery of the Clinical Records relating to the disputed claims that allow Defendants to examine the integrity of their claims data and pursue proof to support their defenses.

In a case where Plaintiffs are seeking over \$26 million dollars in additional reimbursements, there is no good-faith basis for avoiding discovery of their Clinical Records.

attached as Exhibit 8).

rendered by the doctors to members of the defendant health plans. In that case, the health insurers sought

discovery of clinical records in order to investigate the accuracy of the claim forms the doctors put at issue. The physicians in that case, like Plaintiffs here, refused to produce those clinical records; however,

the district court made short work of that argument and compelled production of the requested clinical records. (Order Adopting in Part Rep. & Recs., *In re Managed Care Litig.*, MDL No.

1334, Master File No. 00-1334-MD-MORENO (S.D. Fla. July 24, 2003); Rep. & Rec., *In re Managed Care Litig.*, MDL No. 1334, Master File No. 00-1334-MDL-MORENO (July 3, 2003) (both orders

2. Plaintiffs' cause of action for unjust enrichment requires discovery of Plaintiffs' Clinical Records.

Plaintiffs contend that "this case concerns a dispute over the rate of payment rather than a coverage determination and, consequently, does not concern the medical treatment provided to particular patients." But Plaintiffs call into question the reasonable value "of the services provided" in their First Amended Complaint:

Defendants accepted and retained the benefit of the services provided by the Health Care Providers at the request of the members of its Health Plans, knowing that the Health Care Providers expected to be paid a usual and customary fee based on locality, or alternatively for *the reasonable value of services provided*, for the medically necessary, covered emergency medicine services it performed for Defendants' Patients.

(FAC at ¶ 225 (emphasis added).) Plaintiffs further allege that they are "entitled to recover the difference between the amount the Defendants' paid for emergency care the Health Care Providers rendered to its members and the *reasonable value* of the service that the Health Care Providers rendered" (FAC at ¶ 225 (emphasis added)).

To litigate Plaintiffs' unjust enrichment claim, discovery as to the value of the benefit allegedly conferred, which includes the reasonable value of Plaintiffs' services as a whole, is necessary. *Id.* "When a plaintiff seeks 'as much as he . . . deserve[s]' based on a theory of restitution . . . he must establish each element of unjust enrichment," *Certified Fire Prot. Inc. v. Precision Constr.*, which requires a showing that the plaintiff conferred a benefit on the defendant, the defendant appreciated such benefit, and that there is acceptance and retention of the benefit under circumstances. *Certified Fire*, 128 Nev. at 381, 283 P.3d at 257 (quoting BLACK'S LAW DICTIONARY 1361 (9th ed. 2009)). Plaintiffs are not discharged from their obligation to demonstrate that a benefit was conferred "from [the] services provided." *Id.*

¹⁵ See Plaintiffs' initial responses to Defendants' First Set of Requests for Production, **Exhibit 1**, at 5:14–16.

¹⁶ 1 Dan B. Dobbs, Dobbs Law of Remedies § 4.2(3) (2d ed. 1993) (plaintiff pursuing quantum meruit under unjust enrichment theory must show benefit to defendant).

¹⁷ See also Restatement (Third) of Restitution and Unjust Enrichment § 49 (2011) ("Enrichment from the receipt of nonreturnable benefits may be measured by (a) the value of the benefit in advancing the

It is also generally accepted that "a medical care provider's billed price for particular services is not necessarily representative of either the cost of providing those services or their market value." *Howell v. Hamilton Meats & Provisions, Inc.*, 52 Cal. 4th 541, 564, 257 P.3d 1130, 1144 (2011). And, "[i]n a given case, the reasonable and customary amount that the health care service plan has a duty to pay 'might be the bill the [medical provider] submits, or the amount the [health care service plan] chooses to pay, or some amount in between." *Children's Hosp. Cent. California v. Blue Cross of California*, 226 Cal. App. 4th 1260, 1275, 172 Cal. Rptr. 3d 861, 873 (2014) (citing *Prospect Med. Grp., Inc. v. Northridge Emergency Med. Grp.*, 45 Cal. 4th 497, 505, 198 P.3d 86, 91 (2009)). Here, because the measure of liability and damages for Plaintiffs' unjust enrichment claim, as alleged, requires "a determination of the value of the goods or services at issue," and because Plaintiffs seek damages for "the reasonable value of the services provided," Defendants are entitled to independently examine and contest the "value" of the services at issue, which necessarily includes analyzing discovery of the Clinical Records. *See Certified Fire*, at 128 Nev. at 380, 283 P.3d at 256. 19

In sum, discovery in the form of Clinical Records is warranted in light of Plaintiffs' unjust enrichment claim; a determination as to "reasonable value for the services," which is what Plaintiffs contend they seek, simply cannot be derived from the unverified Claims Spreadsheet generated by Plaintiffs.

purposes of the defendant, (b) the cost to the claimant of conferring the benefit, (c) the market value of the benefit, or (d) a price the defendant has expressed a willingness to pay, if the defendant's assent may be treated as valid on the question of price.").

¹⁸ See Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint at ¶¶ 62, 69, 211, 220, 225; See also Plaintiffs' Answer to Interrogatory No. 5, at **Exhibit 9** ("Fremont is not obligated to provide emergency services to UnitedHealthcare members at rates that are not usual and customary or reflective of the reasonable value of the emergency medical services provided.").

¹⁹ Any contention by Plaintiffs that they can unilaterally set prices for the services rendered that bears no relationship to the reasonable value for those services is untenable.

3. Discovery of Clinical Records is necessary for Defendants' affirmative defenses and without it, Defendants will be unfairly prejudiced.

Defendants have asserted affirmative defenses in their answer to Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint, two of which require discovery of the Clinical Records sought by this Motion.

For Defendants' Twenty-Fourth Affirmative Defense:

Plaintiffs' claims are subject to setoff and/or recoupment with respect to claims for which United made payment on the basis of current procedural terminology ("CPT") or other billing codes included in Plaintiffs' submissions that Plaintiffs' clinical records of their patients' care reveal to have been improperly submitted, either because Plaintiffs' clinical records do not support submission of the codes at all, or because Plaintiffs' clinical records establish that different codes should have been submitted.

Exhibit 10 at pp. 47-48 (emphasis added). For Defendants' Twenty-Fifth Affirmative Defense:

Plaintiffs' claims are subject to setoff and/or recoupment with respect to claims for which United made payment on the basis of Plaintiffs' billed charges and those billed charges exceeded the billed charges submitted to other payors, where Plaintiffs never intended to collect such charges from any other payors, or where the charges were otherwise in error.²⁰

Id.

As Defendants have the burden of proof for their affirmative defenses, they are entitled to discover evidence relevant and necessary to substantiate those defenses. See NRCP 26(b)(1). As to Defendants' Twenty-Fourth Affirmative Defense, Defendants seek discovery of Clinical Records to determine whether such documentation supports the submission of the CPT codes that were utilized (see the Claims Spreadsheet), or whether different codes should have been submitted for the services rendered to Defendants' members. Exhibit 10 at pp. 47-48. Similarly, as to Defendants' Twenty-Fifth Affirmative Defense, Defendant contend that any liability or damages is subject to setoff and/or recoupment, including in instances where overpayments of plan benefits were made as the result of Plaintiffs' improper CPT coding

²⁰ See Defendants' Answer to Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint.

practices. *Id.* Defendants are entitled to analyze the Clinical Records underlying Plaintiffs' billed charges to support this defense.

Additionally, discovery of Clinical Records will be essential to the analysis of Defendants' experts for market analyses, coding trend analyses, and their examination of Plaintiffs' inflated billed charges. Defendants should be permitted to marshal proof at trial that Plaintiffs' billed charges were grossly inflated,²¹ that Plaintiffs billed for certain services that were never performed or did not meet "emergent" thresholds, and that CPT codes were inappropriately used relative to the services provided. *See Adventist Health Sys., Inc. v. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Fla., Inc.*, 2008-CA-011145 (Fla. 9th Cir. Ct. Orange Cty., Jun. 10, 2010) (in a reimbursement dispute the court ordered the provider to produce all responsive documents concerning, among other things, "evaluation of whether a patient who presents to the emergency room has an emergency condition") (attached as **Exhibit 11).** Without discovery of the Clinical Records, Defendants will be prejudiced and unable to make this showing at trial, including fundamentally challenging whether a particular claim was underpaid or overpaid, for purposes of liability and damages.

Plaintiffs' refusal to produce the Clinical Records prevents Defendants from taking discovery and offering proof that contests (1) whether Plaintiffs actually performed the services described on the claims as billed, (2) whether those services are indeed the services that are identified in their claims data, (3) whether Defendants are actually the party responsible for paying those claims or portions of claims, and (4) whether the at-issue claims were billed and coded appropriately under the applicable CPT coding guidelines. Plaintiffs should therefore be ordered to produce the Clinical Records.

Nationwide billing rates and practices for TeamHeath-affiliated providers have been the subject of investigations and lawsuits. A recent class action by patients alleges that TeamHealth charges nearly three times the median rate for in-network physicians at participating hospitals, and their billed charges are significantly higher, at more than four times the median rate. The lawsuit, brought by patients of TeamHealth, asserts federal racketeering claims that bring TeamHealth's rates under serious scrutiny. See Fraser v. Team Health Holdings, Inc., Case 3:20-cv-04600-LB, Doc. 1 (N.D. Ca. Filed July 10, 2020).

D. Plaintiffs should be compelled to Comply with NRCP 16.1

In addition to discovery of the Clinical Records, Defendants also seek an order requiring Plaintiffs to comply with NRCP 16.1(a)(1)(A)(ii), which provides that a party must produce, without awaiting a discovery request:

a copy — or a description by category and location — of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support its claims or defenses, including for impeachment or rebuttal, and, unless privileged or protected from disclosure, any record, report, or witness statement, in any form, concerning the incident that gives rise to the lawsuit;

NRCP 16.1(a)(1)(A)(ii) (emphasis added).

Here, the production of "Explanation of Benefits" and "Provider Remittance Advice" documents or, hereinafter "EOBs" and "PRAs," provide a summary of the medical services for the claims at issue. Plaintiffs were therefore required to produce these documents with their Initial Disclosures in October of 2019. Instead, Plaintiffs have produced nothing more than the Claims Spreadsheet, which as noted *supra*, contains only summarized data. But the data in the Claims Spreadsheet is presumably based on the EOBs and PRAs. Therefore, the EOBs and PRAs are at the core of this dispute, and yet Plaintiffs have not produced a single one of these fundamental documents which are admittedly in their possession.²²

These documents should likewise have been produced pursuant to NRCP 16.1(a)(1)(A)(iv), which requires that a party "must make available for inspection and copying as under Rule 34 *the documents or other evidentiary material, unless privileged or protected from disclosure, on which [their] computation [of damages]* is based." NRCP 16.1(a)(1)(A)(iv) (emphasis added). Because Plaintiffs' computation of damages—set forth in their Claims Spreadsheet—is based on the provider EOBs and PRAs, NRCP 16.1 requires production of such documents.

²² See Transcript of Proceedings from September 9, 2020 Hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel, **Exhibit 5**, at 27:11–13 ("we were already in receipt of is the EOBs, the member explanation of benefits, and then the provider remittance advices, or was referred to as PRAs.") (emphasis added).

IV. RELIEF REQUESTED

Based on the foregoing, Defendants respectfully request an order that Plaintiffs be compelled to produce discovery of the Clinical Records for the 22,153 claims at issue in this litigation, as detailed in the Claims Spreadsheet. Alternatively, if this Court believes a more limited initial production of clinical records is more appropriate at this juncture, Defendants will be prepared to make a more limited request at the September 30 hearing based on further review of the Claims Spreadsheet, and based on an initial draft of the claim matching spreadsheet Defendants alluded to in their opposition brief dated September 4, 2020, which they expect to receive in the interim. Should the Court be inclined to grant a more limited request, Defendants reserve their right to move again for the complete set of Clinical Records for the total 22,153 claims, based on the billing and/or coding errors, as well as other irregularities, that are discovered in the subset of Clinical Records to be produced by Plaintiffs.

Finally, Defendants request that Plaintiffs be ordered to produce the EOB and PRA documents pursuant to NRCP 16.1, which support the computation of damages in Plaintiffs' Claims Spreadsheet.

Dated this 18th day of September, 2020.

/s/ Colby L. Balkenbush

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 18th day of September, 2020, a true and correct copy of the foregoing DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL PRODUCTION OF CLINICAL DOCUMENTS FOR THE AT-ISSUE CLAIMS AND DEFENSES AND TO COMPEL PLAINTIFFS TO SUPPLEMENT THEIR NRCP 16.1 INITIAL DISCLOSURES ON AN ORDER SHORTENING TIME was electronically filed and 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 25

EXHIBIT 25

Electronically Filed

RTRAN

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DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA) LTD.,

Plaintiff(s),

vs.
UNITED HEALTHCARE

INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant(s).

CASE NO: A-19-792978-B

DEPT. XXVII

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY ALLF, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020

RECORDER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS RE: MOTIONS (via Blue Jeans)

APPEARANCES (Attorneys appeared via Blue Jeans):

For the Plaintiff(s): PATRICIA K. LUNDVALL, ESQ.

KRISTEN T. GALLAGHER, ESQ.

For the Defendant(s): COLBY L. BALKENBUSH, ESQ.

D. LEE ROBERTS, JR., ESQ.

RECORDED BY: BRYNN WHITE, COURT RECORDER

TRANSCRIBED BY: KATHERINE MCNALLY, TRANSCRIBER

Case Number: A-19-792978-B

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020 1 2 [Proceeding commenced at 1:30 p.m.] 3 THE CLERK: Good afternoon. This is Fremont Emergency Services versus United Healthcare. 5 If I could please have all counsel please mute yourself until 6 7 it is your turn to speak. And if you could please state your name 8 each time you speak, so we can have a clear record. Thank you. 9 THE COURT: Hello, everyone. This is the judge. And I'm 10 11 calling the case of Fremont Medical versus United Healthcare. Let's take appearances, starting first with the plaintiff. 12 MS. GALLAGHER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Kristen 13 Gallagher, on behalf of the plaintiff Health Care Providers. 14 15 THE COURT: Thank you. Other appearances for the plaintiff, please. 16 MS. LUNDVALL: Your Honor, can you hear me? 17 THE COURT: Yes. 18 MS. LUNDVALL: This is Pat Lundvall. 19 THE COURT: Yes. 20 MS. LUNDVALL: I'm sorry. You may not have heard 21 my appearance before. But Pat Lundvall, with McDonald Carano, on 22 behalf of the plaintiff Health Care Providers. 23

THE COURT: Thank you.

Is that all of the plaintiffs' counsel?

1	All right. Let's have defense counsel, please.
2	MR. ROBERTS: Good afternoon, Your Honor. This is Lee
3	Roberts, for the defendants.
4	THE COURT: Thank you.
5	MR. BALKENBUSH: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Colby
6	Balkenbush, also for the defendants.
7	THE COURT: Thank you.
8	All right, you guys. You know the drill. I'm in the
9	courtroom today, so no computer the computer doesn't have a
10	camera, so I it's voice-activated. So when I am speaking to you, I
11	try to look at one of the cameras. But your faces appear on the
12	screen, so when I'm looking away, it means I'm really looking at you.
13	So it makes sense to me to take the motion the renewed
14	motion for a stay, first.
15	MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Your Honor. Lee Roberts. I'll
16	be addressing this on behalf of the defendant.
17	I apologize that you cannot see me on video. Blue Jeans
18	would not let me join the meeting on video, so I had to call in.
19	The Court previously heard and denied United's
20	Did you say something, Your Honor?
21	THE COURT: No. I shuffled some paper. Sorry.
22	MR. ROBERTS: Okay. No problem.
23	Your Honor, as you know, the Court previously heard

United's motion for stay pending their writ in the Nevada Supreme Court. And the Court denied that motion.

However, we've included a citation of the transcript where this Court did say that if there was a briefing the Court would reconsider the motion for stay -- if the Supreme Court requested briefing on the issue, I would consider a brief stay for that purpose.

And although we had the opportunity to seek a stay from the Nevada Supreme Court after this Court denied the stay, the Court's comments struck us as reasonable. We understood that the Court did not feel that our chances of success were very high, and that even a request for briefing would not be ordered.

So we decided to wait to see if the Supreme Court did request briefing on the writ, and if it did, make a renewed motion for a stay in this court, rather than going up to the Nevada Supreme Court at the time.

As we have set out for the Court, the Supreme Court has indicated that an answering brief would be helpful to them in their analysis.

We believe that, based on what the Court itself said at the last hearing, that this does change the analysis on the likelihood of success. And even though, just looking at general statistics, we acknowledge that this doesn't mean that, based on statistics, we have a 50/50 chance of success; we do believe that it increases the likelihood of success greatly that the Supreme Court wants briefing from the plaintiffs on the issues outlined in our writ petition.

In addition, you know, addressing some of the issues raised in the opposition to our renewed motion, we don't believe

that those changed the analysis.

Again, the plaintiffs raise the fact that writ petitions are rarely granted for an order denying a motion to dismiss, but obviously the Nevada Supreme Court knew that this was a writ petition seeking review of a Motion to Dismiss, and still ordered briefing.

The opposition argues that our arguments misrepresent the case law -- and it's fairly insulting, Your Honor, but we don't need to get into that. But what they say simply isn't true. They say, Oh, well, all you've seen are United's misrepresentations of the cases.

Certainly the Supreme Court has the ability to read those cases for themselves, before they order briefing. And even more critically, the arguments raised below were all in front of the Supreme Court. Our motion to dismiss and the opposing briefs filed by the plaintiffs, which raise the very arguments they claim are going to change the Supreme Court's mind, are all before the Supreme Court as part of the record that went up with our writ petition.

The Nevada Supreme Court is well aware of the context in which the Court's order was issued. They're well aware of the plaintiffs' arguments with regard to the case law we cited. And they still ordered an answering brief.

In these circumstances, we believe that it would be appropriate to issue a brief stay, and if nothing else, for purposes of

judicial economy. We've obviously been continuously seeking the intervention of this Court to resolve discovery disputes. This Court has spent an inordinate amount of time hearing issues from the parties and will continue to spend an inordinate amount of time on matters that will likely be resolved and never have to be considered by this Court, if the Supreme Court grants the stay.

The argument that the Supreme Court is busy and this stay is going to last a year, that's certainly not our experience. And if, indeed, our arguments are so frivolous and can be summarily disposed of by the plaintiffs with their answering brief, then certainly it will not take that long for the Supreme Court to dispose of them, if indeed they're correct.

But we don't believe they're correct. We think we have an excellent chance of success, because ERISA is an area that the Supreme Court has expressed interest in. This is an area of ERISA which has not previously been dealt with by the Nevada Supreme Court. It is an area that needs to be clarified.

And the argument that all of the discovery is going to be needed any way really doesn't ring true, Your Honor. While they do raise the possibility of discovery that would be allowable under ERISA, the fact is they haven't pled ERISA claim -- that if the Supreme Court grants the writ, the Supreme Court -- grants the power to completely dispose of this lawsuit with leave for them to amend. But whether or not they would amend to allege ERISA is speculation at best.

If they believe that they had good claims under ERISA, if they believe that they had exhausted their administrative remedies under ERISA, and that the administrative records supported the claim for the \$20 million which they put forward, they certainly could have claimed that, either directly or in the alternative. And they have not done so.

The discovery, even if they chose to amend and plead under ERISA, would be significantly curtailed over what is going on now.

And the idea that the Court can look at the sign that the Supreme Court has now accepted the writ to the extent that they've ordered an answer, but that this Court should ignore that issue and presume that we still had very little likelihood of success -- it's simply belied by the record.

The fact that an answering brief would -- was argued is an indication that we do have significantly more success than the average writ. And the fact that they filed an answering brief, despite the posture of this case, is an indication that they're interested in the issues. And even if the Court were to remand on less than all the issues, judicial economy would still dictate that we have a brief period of time.

And perhaps, Your Honor, if you feel that a year is simply too long, this Court would certainly have the power to grant a stay for, say, three months or six months; and if the Court has not ruled at the end of that time, to lift the stay.

It's not a Hobson's choice where you either have to deny the stay or issue an indefinite stay for however long the Supreme Court may take to consider the writ issues.

And therefore, Your Honor, based on the analysis set forth in our original Motion to Stay and in our renewed Motion to Stay, we would ask that the Court issue a stay of these proceedings pending the decision of the Supreme Court on writ or alternatively for a set period of time at which -- the end of which period of the time the stay would exhaust, subject to our motion before this court or the Nevada Supreme Court to extend it.

THE COURT: Thank you.

And the opposition, please.

MS. LUNDVALL: Thank you, Your Honor. Pat Lundvall on behalf of the plaintiffs, the Health Care Providers.

What the Court has before it is essentially a Motion for Reconsideration. That Motion for Reconsideration continues to [indiscernible] analyzed under the Rule of Appellate Procedure 8(c) for determining whether or not a stay should issue. And when you scour the briefs that have been presented then by United, you don't have any different facts before you today, with one exception, than you did the last time that we were before you. And so to the extent that the law hasn't changed and the facts haven't changed, there is no grounds then by which then to grant a Motion for Reconsideration.

One of the things that I think is unique about the oral

presentation that was just made by Mr. Roberts is that he suggested somehow that if the Court thought that a stay of a year was too long, then the Court has the power by which to order a three-month stay instead. And I have to confess, nowhere in its moving papers or in its reply papers do they advance such an argument.

And I'm going to rely now, as far as on my own experience before the Nevada Supreme Court, but I don't believe that there is any legal foundation [indiscernible] for the business court saying, well, if the Nevada Supreme Court hasn't done its job within a three-month period of time and [indiscernible] a stay doesn't work [indiscernible] that foundation of how expression by which the Court should act, and they've given you no legal standard by which then to do so.

The one thing that I want to address is a couple of the arguments that they made in their reply brief, and that were at least tangentially addressed then by Mr. Roberts.

One of the things that, in their reply brief, is that United contended that we never addressed any of the exceptions to the general rule that the Nevada Supreme Court has employed -- and that is it will not renew or review on a writ a denial of a Motion to Dismiss. [Indiscernible] not only did we address that -- not only did [indiscernible] renewed [indiscernible] findings of conclusion of law as to how those exceptions did not apply in this case.

And the two exceptions that were previously discussed in the original briefing is whether or not that there -- this was a case

where there were no disputed facts and where clear statutory or rule baked authority of the dismissal -- and this is discussed in the briefing [indiscernible] with prejudice.

So if you take a look then at our opposition brief, and to the renewed motion on page 4, we discussed both of those exceptions. If you look at your order denying the Motion to Stay, you discuss both of those exceptions. And you made specific findings, specific Conclusions of Law No. 2 and No. 3. And if you look at our original opposition, we addressed both exceptions.

So what I did is I tried to scour then the renewed motion that had been filed by United, as well as their reply brief.

And do they contend anywhere within either of those briefs, or before you now on oral argument, that somehow that this case involves no disputed factual issues? No. They haven't given you any argument, any contention. They haven't [indiscernible] as far as any set statement of facts by which that are undisputed before the parties and upon which the Nevada Supreme Court then could review under a pure issue of law.

If you go to your order denying the Motion to Dismiss, I could go through probably about 40 different findings of fact and conclusions of law that you made in the original Motion to Dismiss identifying the factual issues that have been alleged in our complaint for which United disputes.

And so to the extent that the Court has already made extensive findings that there are disputed issues of fact, that limited

exception that has been recognized in a handful of cases by the Nevada Supreme Court does not exist.

And so if you take a look at their second argument that they claim, or second exception that they claim, it is whether or not that there is clear statutory or rule-based authority that obligates dismissal.

Once again, we address this in our opposition to their renewed motion. The Court addressed this issue in denying their Motion to Stay, and we address it in our original opposition brief. There is not clear statutory or rule-based authority that obligates a dismissal with prejudice of the claims that have been asserted by the Health Care Providers in this case.

And even United acknowledges that any dismissal, even if they were 100 percent successful before the Nevada Supreme Court, that any remand would give opportunity then to the Health Care Providers by which to replead their claims. And so therefore, this case is not over. And the repleading of the claims then would fall within the scope of ERISA claims and that those discovery issues are front and center before the court, have been before, and are again today, and so to the extent that those discovery disputes will continue, even if they are 100 percent successful before the Nevada Supreme Court.

One of the things I think is a helpful tool also the look at, and that is the case that they cited in their reply brief contending that somehow that we didn't address in any form or the issues raised in

any form. And it's the *Western Cab case versus Eighth Judicial*, is the 2017 case, that was decided then by Judge Bare, went below, and that was reviewed then by the Nevada Supreme Court.

One of the things that I found interesting about that analysis in the case that they brought to the Court's attention was the fact that the Nevada Supreme Court found that the minimum wage amendment was not ERISA preempted. And when you look at the analysis that was employed by the Nevada Supreme Court in finding that the Nevada's Minimum Wage Amendment was not preempted by ERISA, and look at the case law that they employ, it is the very case law that we have utilized in arguing against their Motion to Dismiss. It's the very case law that the Court embraced in denying their motion to dismiss. And it's the very case law upon which that demonstrates that they do not have a likelihood of success before the Nevada Supreme Court. Why? Because the Nevada Supreme Court expressly rejected in the Western Cab Company case, the analysis that United wishes to employ defined conflict preemption for the claims that we have asserted.

And so I find that their recitation and their bringing to the Court's attention that case to be a bit perplexing because it underscores the fact that the Nevada Supreme Court has employed the same conflict preemption argument that this Court embraced and relied upon in denying their Motion to Dismiss.

And I could go through the cases that they cite and the cases that were rejected and the analysis that was expressly rejected

by the Nevada Supreme Court, if you wish for me to walk you through it. But in sum --

THE COURT: You know, it's a --

MS. LUNDVALL: I guess the point -- I'm sorry.

THE COURT: I guess the point is, if you feel you need to make a record on it, feel free to take the time. But I did read everything, and I'm a good listener.

MS. LUNDVALL: Thank you, Your Honor.

I guess, in sum, what I would say is this, is that, Did United embrace or address or try to argue against the -- the exceptions that occasionally are recognized by the Nevada Supreme Court? Did they bring to you the fact or the contention that somehow there are undisputed factual predicate upon which the Nevada Supreme Court could review this case? No.

And did it bring to you then any clear statutory authority or rule-based authority that mandates a dismissal of our claims? No.

In fact, what it did is it brought to you the case law that embraced the authority and the analysis that was employed by the Court.

So what did they actually do in their brief? They did give you a couple of new additions. And those new admissions are a helpful tool then in the analytical framework then so the Court can reach the same conclusion in denying this renewed Motion for Stay, as it did in the original Motion for Stay.

United acknowledges that there's four factors to be

analyzed. And number one, that first factor is whether or not that there's a likelihood of success on appeal. We've already identified that in the very case that they cite and they embrace and that they suggested somehow that helps them in arguing then for a stay the -- the *Western Cab* case, that is a case then that embraces the same analysis the Court did.

Number 2, what they entirely do is that they gloss over the fact that complete preemption is a jurisdictional tool. And complete preemption is a tool that was employed by Judge Mahan to deny -- or to grant our Motion for Remand and to state that the federal court did not have jurisdiction over this case.

So what is United actually asking our Nevada Supreme
Court to do? The same thing that they asked you to do, and that is to
overturn Judge Mahan and to state that the federal court does have
jurisdiction over this case.

And I think this Court is well aware of the case law and the basic premise that a state court doesn't have the authority to define or determine the jurisdictional parameters of the federal court, and it doesn't have the authority by which to overrule a federal court.

And the simplest way of looking at that is what is the procedural vehicle by which that this case could ever get back to federal court? And if there is no procedural vehicle for this case to get back to federal court, a complete preemption is not an argument that is available to United.

So let's turn then, as far as to the second issue, and that is

whether or not that the object of the writ would be defeated if a stay was denied.

Now, this is where United makes two admissions. And I'm going to quote both of these admissions, because I think that they're helpful tools for the Court to look at.

In their reply brief at page 5, lines 21 through 23, United takes the position, and I'm going to quote here -- that a brief stay of discovery may eliminate concerns of significant wasted resources.

So in other words, what are they trying to do? They're trying to save some money.

What did they include in their declaration asking for this

Court to order or to enter an order shortening time then? I go to

Paragraph No. 12 from the declaration that was offered by

Mr. Balkenbush to the Court in support of an order shortening time.

And once again I quote, Because discovery is ongoing, time

intensive and costly, and because of the pending writ, it may curtail
the need for discovery.

So in other words, once again, what is United admitting? That they're trying to save money.

So if the object of their writ is to try to save them some money and to curtail, in their words [indiscernible] discovery, what this Court would have to do then is you would have to overturn or reject two decisions from our Nevada Supreme Court, that state that if that is the object of their writ or if, in fact, that that is the prejudice that is claimed by seeking a stay, then that is insufficient and may

not be considered whether it be by the district court or by the Nevada Supreme Court in determining whether to issue a stay.

The two cases that I cite that the Court would have to either reject or overturn -- I guess reject is the proper terminology -- would be the *Micon* case and the *Fritz Hansen* case. And the *Micon Gaming* case, it was a case involving Charlie McCray [phonetic] and his employment agreement. And the District Court had determined that his employment agreement was subject to arbitration, and there was an attempt then by which to seek a stay in that case.

And in *Micon Gaming --* I'm going to quote from the Nevada Supreme Court, finding the *Fritz Hansen* case, the Nevada Supreme Court says, We have previously explained that litigation costs, even if significant, are not irreparable harm. And then they go on to say that it is not a reason then by which to grant a stay.

And if you take a look at the *Fritz Hansen* case, our Nevada Supreme Court more extensively then looked at and evaluated whether or not the saving of money or the saving of time was a sufficient reason by which to grant a stay. In *Fritz Hansen*, the Court could not -- the Nevada Supreme Court could not have been more clear saying, no, it may not.

That was a case involving a contest as to whether or not that there was personal jurisdiction then over the defendant. And the defendant contended that he should not have to be required to participate in the expense of a lengthy and time-consuming discovery, trial prep, and trial. And the Nevada Supreme Court says,

Such litigation expenses, while potentially substantial, are neither irreparable or serious. And they refused to use that as a foundation then for granting a stay.

In making that holding, they cited to three other Nevada Supreme Court cases, as well as cases from other jurisdictions, that enforced that same proposition.

Now, United tries to contend that somehow it's trying to do more than save money because its business people are very busy and that they should not have to be taken from their business task to focus on litigation. But that's nothing but a cost of litigation. And if, in fact, that there's any suggestion to the contrary, all you have to do is to look at the *Fritz Hansen* case because the Nevada Supreme Court goes on to identify that the time associated with litigating that case, or the business people having to litigate a case, that's nothing but a cost of litigation, and it is not a foundation then for the granting of the stay.

So one of the things that I think is another helpful acknowledgment, or helpful admission, that comes from their pleadings is that that they acknowledge that this case is not even over if the writ is granted in full.

And this is where I think that the real sophistry comes in the argument that is being advanced by United. Before you, they take the position that it is just going to take too long to do discovery and to pull all these administrative records for the claims that are at issue in this case and, therefore, they shouldn't have to do that. And

then they go on to say, well, we should get a reprieve or a recess from having to perform that task. But we acknowledge that if the Health Care Providers replead their claims, we're going to have to do that anyway.

And so one way versus another, the discovery demands or the discovery requests that have perpetuated this case and which you're going to hear about for the balance of this hearing, those discovery disputes are going to continue, even if United is 100 percent successful on its motion.

THE COURT: Okay. Looks like we lost --

Ms. Lundvall, you're back?

MS. LUNDVALL: My apologies, Your Honor, I didn't mean to --

THE COURT: No problem.

MS. LUNDVALL: -- but the one last point, I guess that I'd like to make about that is this -- there are two additional factors that United didn't even address in their -- either in their renewed motion or, in fact, in their reply papers as to whether or not that there was some type of irreparable harm to United or the irreparable harm that was found by this Court then in granting or in denying their Motion for Stay in the first place. They didn't even touch those two factors. And so there's nothing really new for this Court to reconsider.

The only thing that is really before you is better admissions and a better record underscoring what it is and why it is that United wants to have this case stayed.

And so therefore, Your Honor, we would ask for the same result that the Court had issued when you denied their original Motion to Stay.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

And Mr. Roberts, your reply, please.

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Your Honor.

Addressing first the point raised by Ms. Lundvall that there is no proper basis for reconsideration, I'm going to say again that we're relying on this Court's own words that said, If there is a briefing request, I would reconsider this. This is why we delayed seeking a stay from the Supreme Court, and this is what we believe does change the Court's calculus.

In denying the Motion for Stay, this Court stated that with all due respect to the defendants, I do not think there's a likelihood of success on the matter even being considered by the Nevada Supreme Court. And the fact that the Nevada Supreme Court has requested briefing, and they have requested briefing with knowledge of all of the issues, which plaintiffs continue to raise as to the unlikelihood of success, does considerably change the calculus.

Going to the argument on the irreparable harm, this Court did find that the irreparable harm [indiscernible] on defendants in denying the original Motion to Stay. And therefore, I think it would be appropriate to take at least another look at those arguments in -- with regard to the length of the stay, because while plaintiffs argue

that the only irreparable harm United can point to is money and the fact that we're going to have to spend money -- in essence, the only irreparable harm the plaintiffs are alleging is money -- money that this Court has not even found that they're entitled to.

And therefore, to the extent that the Court does think that an indefinite stay of a year or longer would be too long, I know of no prohibition that would prevent this Court from ordering a shorter stay to minimize any harm to the plaintiffs from a stay in the case.

But while plaintiffs minimize it, United doesn't argue something that merely the cost of discovery. In the affidavit with regard to the discovery that was sought by the plaintiffs in their Motion to Compel that was heard at the last hearing by the Court, we outline that even in order to comply with a delayed schedule for production of those documents, it would take four of our employees, working full time. That is a significant disruption of United's business. These are not people whose only job is to do discovery in connection with litigation. It is harming United and their attempts to continue their business under these strained circumstances that everyone is currently going through. Therefore, there is something merely beyond litigation costs.

But I think the Court can also consider that really, the factor, as far as irreparable harm, which is the Court is considering now, is very parallel to the irreparable harm in connection with whether or not a party has a speedy and adequate remedy.

And typically, yes, the Nevada Supreme Court says, hey, if

you've got a future appeal, that's a sufficient adequate speedy remedy. And the fact that you have to do discovery doesn't alter that.

But in this case, the Supreme Court, nevertheless, has requested briefing on the stay. And in our writ to the Supreme Court, at page 21, we cited to *International Game Technology*, where the Court noted that an appeal is not adequate and speedy, given the early stages of litigation and the policies of judicial administration. In other words, it's not an absolute rule.

And in this case, where we're so early in the litigation, and a Supreme Court order on the dismissal could dispose of the entire matter, the analysis is a little bit different. And the Supreme Court has recognized that if there is complex litigation and you're early in the litigation, and the writ could dispose of the case and eliminate all of those costs, it can change that analysis.

And while Ms. Lundvall did a very nice job of pointing out words in our brief that were less than unconditional, but that doesn't change the fact that we do contend in our briefing that we're entitled, if we win at the Supreme Court, to a complete dismissal of the entire case.

It's something that we have asked for. We have cited authority to the Court in supporting that that is a potential remedy that we could get. And the mere fact that they could potentially replead after a complete dismissal to assert ERISA claims doesn't alter the fact that as the litigation currently stands before this Court,

if the Supreme Court grants our writ petition, all of the plaintiffs' claims could be dismissed.

As far as Judge Mahan's decision, as this Court is well aware, in a decision on a Motion to Remand, there are no appellate rights. We had no right to appeal that decision to the Ninth Circuit. And Judge Mahan's analysis with regard to complete preemption is not binding in any way on this Court, and it also does not go to the issue of conflict preemption which is one of the primary bases of our writ to the Supreme Court.

In summary, Your Honor, we believe that this Court recognized at the prior hearing that it would change the way of the four factors under Rule 8 if the Supreme Court requested briefing; that it would indicate that we have a higher probability of success than this Court found at the prior hearing. And we believe that that factor would weigh in favor of granting a stay in this case, a brief stay, simply to give the Supreme Court a chance to resolve the writ on the merits, if they intend to do so.

Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, both.

The matter is now submitted, and this is the ruling of the Court. I read everything. I listened with an open mind, but for all of the reasons that I denied the stay previously, I'm going to deny this motion.

The Supreme Court orders talked about propriety of writ relief. And the *Dignity Health* case is law in Nevada where they've

already said they rarely grant writs on motions to dismiss.

I don't find that the object of the litigation would be defeated without a stay. I think still the defendant has a low likelihood of success on the merits on the writ.

I'm concerned about the delay in this case. I do not believe that the motion was filed for any dilatory purpose. But clearly the extensive litigation doesn't equal irreparable harm in Nevada. I'm concerned about the delay in the case itself. April 15 of 2019 is when the complaint goes back to. It is already a year and a half old.

So for those reasons, I am going to deny the motion, Mr. Roberts.

Ms. Lundvall to prepare the order. See if you can agree as to form. If you can't, outline your issues for me. This may be a simple order -- and let me know if you can't agree on the form of an order. But I don't accept any competing orders.

Any questions, with regard to the ruling?

MS. LUNDVALL: No questions, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. ROBERTS: No questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

So the next motion I have briefed is the Defendant's Motion to Compel the political documents.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, Your Honor. This is Lee Roberts. I'll be handling that motion for the defendant.

The plaintiffs in this matter seek to foreclose United from taking discovery and offering proof with regard to the clinical records which describe the services that are actually -- that were actually performed for which the plaintiffs are now taking additional payment.

The clinical records, the medical records, will demonstrate what services were performed. Perhaps they will demonstrate the need for those services, the medical necessity of those services. They will demonstrate how long it took in order for those services to be performed in certain cases. And it will also demonstrate whether or not the services for which the plaintiffs seek payment are indeed the services that are identified in the claims they submitted to United for payment.

Based on our meet and confers and the papers filed by plaintiffs, plaintiffs seem to be essentially arguing that because United has partially paid those claims, that United cannot now dispute whether the services were performed, that United cannot dispute how the services were coded, and that United cannot defend in any way whether or not those services were necessary or properly coded.

The opposition to the Motion to Compel is essentially asking this Court to grant summary judgment on United's defenses and to grant summary judgment on whether or not United can dispute at this point in the litigation whether the services were performed and whether they were properly submitted for payment.

And one of the factors that the Court should consider is the public policy of encouraging insurers to pay claims based on the representations of the providers who perform medical services.

Under the Prompt Payment Act -- and which would not necessarily apply if these were ERISA claims -- but the argument which is being asserted is that they're not ERISA claims, and therefore you would have to look to the Prompt Payment Act.

But regardless, it's the public policy in Nevada to encourage insurers to pay high volumes of claims in a short period of time. And it's the public policy to encourage those claims to be paid based on the representations made by the providers when they submitted claim for pay.

In this case, we know that part of what is in dispute here is emergency room services. And we know that emergency room services are subject to significant abuse in the industry for upcoding. We know, based on the sampling, that it would appear that a very large percentage of claims are coded Level 4 and 5 for emergency services, which are subjective standards based on whether or not the illness for which the patient is being treated was life threatening, whether or not it involves a moderate or high complexity of medical reasoning. There are lots of things that are in the medical records which would be relevant to determine the reasonable value of the services.

And in this case, the Court cannot ignore the fact that plaintiffs have pled *quantum meruit*. They have pled the unjust

enrichment of United. And without admitting that the -- those claims are valid, at this point in the litigation, the Court has to recognize that in an unjust enrichment claim, the Court can look at a number of different factors, such as the reasonable value of the services that are performed. And the Court is entitled to know, and we're entitled to know, what services were actually performed, even if we never requested those records in the beginning.

Just because an insurance company pays a certain amount under the representation that services were properly coded to a certain CPT code does not mean that everything is not back opened when the plaintiffs refuse to accept that payment and move to compel a reasonable payment of a reasonable value.

Once they refuse to accept our payment, they place the reasonable value of the services in dispute. And while there's not a lot of case law on this issue in the country, we have cited the case to -- the Court to a case in Florida, which outlines the logic of that exact issue.

Now that they have placed their entitlement to be paid more than what they were paid, they have put at issue whether the work was performed, whether the services are the same as that were identified in their claim form, and whether or not they were billed and coded appropriately.

There is one argument which was not reached in the brief, but I think it is somewhat applicable by analogy, and that is NRS 48.105, which they said accepting or offering or promising to accept

a valuable consideration and compromising or attempting to compromise a claim which was disputed either as to validity or amount, is not admissible to prove liability for or invalidity of the claim for its amount.

And really that's exactly what they're asking the Court to do. We disputed the amount of the claim that they submitted. We paid a lower amount. And now they're trying to use that payment, which Nevada policy encourages, to estop us from contesting the validity of the claim itself. And that's just not proper, and they have not gotten summary judgment on that issue. They have not precluded us from asserting that defense.

And this is a discovery motion, and as long as that defense still exists, then they have not file that had motion and the Court has not grant that had relief, it is inappropriate for the Court to refuse to order relevant discovery on the basis -- on their claim that they will be able to get summary judgment on the actual coding of the claims for services and that it was proper and that the services were performed.

They haven't gotten that yet, and United is entitled to discovery on this issue. And there's a claim that this is simply retaliatory for the Motion to Compel that was filed by the plaintiffs, but the fact is that this discovery was requested long before they moved to compel discovery from us. We put this at issue because we thought it was relevant to the value of the services that were performed, that whether or not we requested medical records in

initially paying a smaller amount is simply not relevant or probative to whether or not we're entitled to see the records of what they did now that they are claiming that our payment was insufficient.

So we would ask the Court to compel the clinical records for the claims that they are seeking. And as we said before, to the extent that the plaintiffs contend this would be overly burdensome and time-consuming, we are more than willing to meet and confer with them with regard to sampling methodologies or other mediums that would allow both sides to prove or to defend their case in a statistically significant reasonable manner. But at this point in the litigation, these items are relevant, and they are likely to lead to admissible evidence. And United is entitled to receive.

THE COURT: I just have --

MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Just one question, Mr. Roberts. Are you asking for EOBs in addition to clinical records?

MR. ROBERTS: Yes. And I was focused on the clinical records. But we are asking for all of the records which would support their spreadsheets. They have created around the spreadsheet. They have asked the Court do deem that everything in the spreadsheet is accurate, if United doesn't dispute it.

But the fact is, Your Honor, a chart, a spreadsheet is only admissible at trial and is only admissible in evidence to the extent that it is based on admissible evidence and the other party is offered an opportunity to review and copy the information summarized in

the spreadsheet.

And in this case, we have been provided a spreadsheet, but the plaintiffs have not provided any of the underlying data or documents from which those spreadsheet entries are drawn. We believe that should have been provided initially, under Rule 16.1. And we are asking that the Court compel all documents upon which the spreadsheet is drawn so that we can review those and verify that the spreadsheet entries are correct.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MR. ROBERTS: And in going through -- and the Court may hear more of this with regard to Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel, which is on today -- but in going through and trying to compile clinical records and trying to match claims, United has already found many errors in the spreadsheets, which have made it difficult to research and align the issues. So we are asking for the COBs and all other documents which plaintiffs intend to use to show that the spreadsheet is admissible and that it correctly reflects and correctly summarizes is underlying admissible documents.

THE COURT: Thank you.

And the opposition, please.

MS. GALLAGHER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. This is Kristen Gallagher. And I'll be responding in connection with the clinical records.

What I'd like to start with is just an overview.

THE COURT: Hang on just a second.

MS. GALLAGHER: What we heard is really just United conflating this case into something it's not. This is consistent with what we [indiscernible] from the beginning.

THE COURT: Ms. Gallagher, Ms. Gallagher, hang on just a second.

I just need the court reporter to change the screen so that I can see you on the screen. Can you -- you can't increase. Okay. Sorry. Good enough.

So go ahead then again, please.

MS. GALLAGHER: Sure. Thank you, your Honor.

So as I was saying, is that this is a consistent effort by
United to conflate what this case is actually about. We know from
our first amended complaint in paragraph 1 that this case is specific.
This is not a right-to-payment case. This is a rate-of-payment case.

And so what you're seeing with the clinical records is language and using terminology that is trying to transform this into a right-to-payment case.

And we saw that in the moving papers, but particularly with Mr. Roberts's presentation today. And I'd like to hit on a few points and then the rest I'll address as we go forward.

But when Mr. Roberts talks about the top case statutes as being something that they denied part of a payment or made a partial payment, that is actually a misnomer of what this case is about. What happened is that United accepted the emergency department services at the level coded. They paid the claim. They

either asked for information or they didn't, as they're entitled to do under the prompt case statutes in Nevada, and then they paid the claim. But what they represented when they paid the claim is that it was full payment for the claims that had been submitted.

Now what we're hearing in an effort to try and expand this case to something it's not, now they're saying what they did is they made partial payment. And so that's important if they want to stand on that, saying that they made partial payments under Nevada law, we'll certainly take that admission. But what we're seeing is language being used inappropriately and not forthcoming in terms of how these claims are adjudicated and how they're paid. So this case, make no mistake about it is the rate of payment.

So what has happened is that United accepted the claims.

They processed them at the level coded. And then they paid them based on that level -- based on documentation.

We know from United's declaration of standard way, that they do have clinical records. They've represented to the Court they have clinical records. They have produced, although it's only nine claims to date. We have produced clinical records. So we know that United has that in their possession. And if they asked for it, they have it.

But what I want to make clear as I go through my opposition is that the terminology being used about clinical records and how we have to prove our claims because they have been partially paid is an inaccurate description of this case, Your Honor.

And it's important for the lay of the land because as the plaintiffs we are entitled to bring certain claims. Had we wanted to challenge denied claims, that would be a different action, but this is clear. We have received -- well, let me go back, United has accepted and allowed at the level that has been paid. There's no denial of the level that's been paid. There's no partial payment because they thought it should have been paid at a different level.

And so to suggest that somehow this is different than the prompt pay statute or that this somehow opens the door to clinical records, I just want to make that record clear that it is an opportunity to United is trying to use this language and morph this case into something it's not.

But before I get too far down the road, I wanted to start by providing the Court an update on the meet and confer efforts. We did raise this issue in our opposing papers, because we thought it was significant that we had provided these responses more than a year ago now, I believe -- somewhat a year ago. We did not hear from United in terms of them having any issues with our responses until there became other discovery disputes in the federal -- while the case was pending in federal court.

At that time, the issue was raised specific to No. 6, which is the subject of this particular motion. And it's important in terms of timing, because at the time that the request was asked, United did not have an answer on file. United did not have any affirmative defenses that were provided, and so when we went to the meet and

confer, what we were brought forward with is, well, you have a claim for unjust enrichment, and so as a result the clinical records are required.

Then sometimes after that, not too long ago, in July of this year, United filed their answer, which included the recruitment or an option. And so that timing is really important because United is trying to cut off our objections by virtue of this timing that they're trying to take advantage of.

So it's important for the Court to see sort of that timing, when the meet and confer came forward, what the lay of the landscape was at the time we made objections. And when we went to the meet and confer, what we were confronted with or what we were told is that, well, it's your unjust enrichment claim, you have to show the value of services.

And so those were the conversations that is we were having, subsequently then United filed an answer, and then brought this motion without regrouping with the Health Care Providers. And why that's important is you have a declaration indicating that had there been a reconvening on the meet and confer, perhaps United expected that there would be some outcome of compromise. We heard Mr. Roberts talk about perhaps a phantom compromise.

However, what's important is that that's the first that we've heard of it. We didn't hear about it before. And in fact, when United saw our opposition, they reached back out to us to say, Would there be an opportunity for a compromise?

And our response was, well, you suggested that there was in -- in your moving papers, and so if you have a compromise that you had in mind when you filed your moving papers suggesting you had a compromise in mind, we would be open to discussing that.

And so we received information that counsel was going to be talking with United on Tuesday, I believe it was, and expected to be able to chat with us on Wednesday with regard to what an acceptable compromise might be.

The timing is important because it just goes to show that there was actually no reasonable compromise that United had in its mindset when it filed the motion, even though it sort of suggested that it had one.

I hate to say we have not been contacted since then,
Your Honor. So the first we're hearing of this sampling potential
compromise is with the presentation today. At this point, I'll leave
that as it is, just because we haven't had the opportunity and it
hasn't been presented to us. But that meet and confer is important,
because it does set the landscape for where we were in terms of the
meet and confer in our objections and opposition and sort of the
forthcoming nature of how we got here today.

THE COURT: And can I -- can I interrupt?

MS. GALLAGHER: So now [indiscernible].

THE COURT: I'm going to interrupt. You know, this motion was only filed on September 21. My inclination is to give you guys a chance to try to work this out and come back. Is that

something the plaintiff is amenable to?

MS. GALLAGHER: Well, Your Honor, I would like to finish the presentation in terms of why we think that this discovery is not appropriate and why it shouldn't be permitted.

THE COURT: I'll allow you to complete your entire argument. I just want to hear if the parties are amenable -- plaintiff and then defendant.

MS. GALLAGHER: And Your Honor, of course, depending on your outcome, we will definitely consider a compromise. We have often reached out. As you know, we've had a compromise pending since February that would have addressed a lot of these matters, that United has not responded to. And unfortunately, it seems evident with this moving papers and the reply that the reason they haven't responded is because they simply want to try and press the Health Care Providers for discovery that isn't necessary.

As Your Honor may recall, we have proposed a protocol where United would match our data points for the very reason that was raised by Mr. Roberts. If there is a data point that doesn't match, that then tells the parties they need to further discuss it. If the data points match, then it's clear the Health Care Providers submitted a claim and United paid it at the level based on the information it had.

So definitely we are open to compromise positions as may be appropriate, given the Court's ruling.

And I appreciate the opportunity to address the

substantive piece of it, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Mr. Roberts, are -- is the defendant, or are the defendants, amenable to trying to resolve this?

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honor, the defendants are amenable to trying to resolve this. However, if we are only amenable if the plaintiffs indicate that they're willing to discuss a reasonable way to relieve the burden on both sides.

THE COURT: I think that's --

MR. ROBERTS: And so the -- the Court --

THE COURT: -- that's what she just said.

MR. ROBERTS: The Court may recall that part of our moving papers in the Motion to Compel, our documents, indicated and mentioned in argument that one way to resolve it might be to order the parties to meet and confer on some sort of sampling that could allow the parties to prove their case. And that's been rejected.

And we would not be willing to meet and confer on a sampling methodology that would relieve the burden on plaintiffs, unless they were willing to entertain the same relief for us on our claims.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

So then, Ms. Gallagher, let me hear the rest of your argument.

MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you, Your Honor.

And I could just note, you know, the timing of a request for

relief for United's discovery -- it obviously comes long after we've had to Move to Compel, long after the Court has ordered them to produce documents.

So but with respect to the specific clinical records at issue, United tries to convince the Court that there are three reasons why clinical records are needed.

And if I could just spend a moment discussing clinical records -- so those are going to be the doctor's notes on the ground, the nurse's notes on the ground. Those are, you know, actually what is taken at the hospital, at the time that the services are provided.

As this Court is aware, the Health Care Providers are obligated to treat -- not only treat, but to evaluate and -- take a look at and evaluate when somebody presents to the emergency room what is happening and then treat them accordingly. They don't have the luxury of turning somebody away or only treating them and not evaluating them when somebody presents with a heart -- you know, heart chest pain or, you know, something that looks to be an emergency situation -- they are eligible and required to evaluate those situations.

And so when a United member presents to the emergency room, that essentially is the triggering piece of when a claim is right.

And a claim then becomes something that if the United member is going to be obligated by United to pay.

And so if United says that we have to establish the burden of proof that the claims are even valid. However, that is trying to

revise history, in terms of what has happened already. So United's member already presented, the professional services were already provided. And then what happens after that is the appropriate billing forms are filled out and submitted to United.

And then United has their procedures in terms of what they review, how quickly they're supposed to review, and guided by Nevada Prompt Payment statutes.

And so when they look at claims and they see them allowable, the allowable piece of it is at the level -- CPT code level that has been submitted.

We know from United that they may deny a claim. We know that they may partially pay a claim based on perhaps multiple CPT codes that are submitted based on the services provided.

But what we're not dealing with in this case and what we made clear in our complaint and in our list of claims is that those claims we are seeking payment of are ones that United already deemed allowable at the level -- they were not denied based on the level. And United represented that that was full payment, based on prevailing market rates.

Well, what we've uncovered is that that is not accurate in terms of full -- the full payment.

So now they're trying to say it's a partial payment. But that's not actually true, based on the allegations in the complaint. It was full payment -- representative full payment, but to which the Health Care Providers had uncovered is not full payment because

they have allegedly manipulated market rates with some of their third-party friends that we've identified in the complaint.

The next reason that United tries to convince the Court that clinical records are needed is that they say that it's important for the reasonable value of services. But in our opposition, we've identified that the case law indicates that is not the case.

What a market rate is, is what are people willing to pay for that level of service? So, for example, the most emergent care is coded at a CPT code 99285. What is the prevailing market rate? What is the usual and customary rate for that in the market that's applicable?

We know here we're going to have a dispute in a little bit about what should be the appropriate geography because we have alleged that even though Data iSight and United are saying that rates are market or a specific geographic locations, we know, in fact, based on data, that it's a national data. So we're going to have a little bit of a dispute about what the right geographic area is.

However, the reasonable value of services is going to be the market value. What are people willing to pay for a level 99285? That has nothing to do with the underlying clinical records, because United has already made that determination.

Again, I sound like I'm beating a dead horse, but our complaint, at paragraph 1, makes that abundantly clear. And we know that United consistently tries the change this into an ERISA claim. And they're doing it here by trying to categorize or

characterize or try and classify it as something that is a denial of a claim or a partial payment because of levelling -- and that is a right to benefits, not a rate of payment.

So for that reason, we think, under the reasonable value of services, the Health Care Providers don't have a burden of proof issue with respect to producing underlying clinical records.

The last category that United tries to indicate that it's entitled to clinical records are in connection with its recruitment defense.

We know from the opposition, where we indicated that recruitment means something -- first of all, they can't recover more than what they paid, so it sort of seems like if they want to revisit every CPT code, that is outside the bounds of what recruitment is permitted from a legal perspective.

The other piece of it is that, again, we have framed this case, specifically -- which we are entitled to do, which means that this is a right to the amount of the payment because United has manipulated that payment reimbursement rate. And so that's what this case is about, not about a denial of any of the claims, but about the manipulation of the rate that is being paid.

And so it's important to know that United has already said in its answer, in Paragraphs 26, 193, 194, and 196, that it has paid for covered services.

And so that is really the end of the inquiry for the Court, because if there is an admission that that piece of what they are now

claiming, which is they want to revisit levelling, has been closed -foreclosed by their own admissions.

I wanted to address a couple of points if I could, Your Honor, still.

The other point of the recruitment piece that I wanted to talk about is about how United is trying to circumvent the Prompt Pay statutes with its recruitment defense. Now they said that it's due process and that they need to be able to go back and revisit these claims. But it's important that the only case that they -- that they point to is an unpublished decision from Florida. And it involves a government payer and it involves a contracted or a network hospital facility.

And so we're dealing with a different set of circumstances. The Court in that case discussed that there was a right to a post-audit review of claims that were submitted. And so it seems as though the Court was simply interpreting [indiscernible] contract between those -- those two entities in terms of the due process.

But here United has gotten due process. They had that opportunity to either deny a claim or ask for additional documents

before deeming a claim allowable, pursuant to the Nevada Prompt
Pay statute. And so that due process that they now claim that
they're entitled to is something that they already received and were
able and aptly able to follow that in terms of whether to allow a
claim or not. Again, only allowable claims are part of this particular
claim -- litigation.

THE COURT: Did that conclude your argument,
Ms. Gallagher?

MS. GALLAGHER: Just one point I wanted to revisit on Mr. Roberts's presentation, if I could, just in terms of, you know, trying to characterize this as a denial or a partial payment.

With respect to the statutes, I think it's, you know, cautious on their part. They should be cautious about basically saying that they're circumventing by partially paying. But again, like I said, we will take any admission that they want to make.

And I guess the last point is with respect to the settlement statute that Mr. Roberts referred to. Sort of a little bit of a head scratcher in terms of how United partially paying a claim in the normal course of business would have any sort of coverage under Nevada's statutory scheme for evidentiary compromise in terms of submission to the Court for liability. And also I think it gives the Health Care Providers a little bit of pause if United is purposely short-paying or partial-paying claims that they've allowed, knowingly. I think that speaks volumes.

So again, I would just like to close that we think that

clinical records are not appropriate in this case. This is not in terms of what the Health Care Providers as burden of proof or in terms of what United is entitled to on a defense, in light of the admissions made and in light of United trying to transform this into what it has tried to do from the beginning -- which is something different than what the Health Care Providers have alleged. And for that reason we would ask that you deny the claim -- or deny the motion, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. I would like your response to something Mr. Roberts said -- that he claims that in the compilation that you provided that some of the CPT codes are incorrect. He wanted to match up with the EOBs and the CPTs.

Can you respond to that?

MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Your Honor.

So with respect to any issue about matching data points, certainly that was an opportunity that we tried and we made that offer of compromise back on February 10th of this year. United has given every reason why they can't substantively respond to it. I find it interesting that it's raised now, but we certainly had offered that.

But yes, we want to engage in a data point comparison. If they find one they think isn't right, then we are certainly willing to have that discussion. That's what discovery is all about.

But one point I do want to make about the EOBs and the PRAs and Mr. Roberts's attempt to try and get the Health Care Providers to produce those is that United has already been ordered

to produce those, I believe, as part of the administrative record. I imagine that comes along with it.

But I also find it interesting that those are United generated documents. United generates the explanation of benefits. United generates the provider [indiscernible] forms.

So to try and put it on the Health Care Providers just seems to be another effort to try and circumvent its discovery obligations and certainly try and avoid a court order that is already -- that it is already facing and is in the process of trying to comply with.

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Gallagher.

Mr. Roberts, your response, please.

MR. ROBERTS: On everything or just on the question the Court just asked?

THE COURT: Everything.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Very good. Thank you, Your Honor.

The first point I would like to address is the mischaracterization of my argument that United has somehow admitted they made partial payment in the sense of paying less than the amount United believes was due. That's a complete mischaracterization of my argument.

Under NRS 48.105, where a claim, which they submitted to us, was disputed as to either validity or amount is paid, then the evidence of payment is not admissible to prove liabilities for the claim. So what we are saying is that we disputed the amount of the

claim that was submitted to us by the plaintiffs. We paid less than the amount submitted, which was the amount we thought was due, based on the certifications they provided in their claim forms. There is not an admission that United paid less than the amount due.

United paid less than the amount claimed. And now they're trying to use the fact that we paid something promptly, in reliance on their representations in the claim form, as an admission that their representations in the claim form were correct and accurate.

Now that they have put in issue whether or not we paid a proper amount for these claims, they should be required to demonstrate that they performed the services and that they were correctly coded in order to get paid. That's certainly part of their burden.

Now, I don't blame them for not wanting to prove they performed services. I don't want to blame them for not wanting to avoid proving that the services were accurately coded on their claim forms. But now that they have placed the issue of the amount they were entitled to be paid for those services, as part of this litigation, they can't be relieved of their burden of proving all elements of their cause of action, including their cause of action for unjust enrichment.

The answer filed by United -- and counsel mentioned that we had filed an answer -- I would point the Court to Affirmative

Defense No. 9 where the defendants stated, To the extent that plaintiffs have any right to receive plan benefits, that right is subject

to basic preconditions and prerequisites that have not been established, such that patients are members of United on the date of service, that the coordination of benefits have been applied, that the services were medically necessary, that an emergency medical condition was present, that plaintiffs timely submitted correctly coded claims, and that all necessary authorizations were obtained. United reserves all rights with respect to asserting any and all such defenses, once plaintiffs have adequately identified the specific claims they contend were underpaid.

Again, their argument seeks to have the Court disregard this affirmative defense, grant summary judgment on this affirmative defense, and find that they don't have to prove that they performed any service or that they performed the service at the level for which they are seeking pay. And that simply is not appropriate at this stage of the litigation.

THE COURT: So I --

MR. ROBERTS: All of this information goes to the proof of that.

THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead, sorry.

MR. ROBERTS: And I may have misspoken, Your Honor.

And I believe that the problem we're having is that the insurance provider and the employee -- the patient's benefit plan was incorrectly identified in some of the spreadsheets which have had us searching multiple databases.

The CPT issue was not that it doesn't match on their

spreadsheet versus what's on their claim form. The CPT issue is that what we're saying is we're entitled to the clinical records to see if, indeed, the services were provided at the appropriate level and at the appropriate CPT code for which we were billed.

And now that they put in issue whether or not they were underpaid, they should have to prove that -- and we -- even as they don't want to have to prove it, we should be able to do discovery to assert the defense that the services were not provided.

THE COURT: Right.

MR. ROBERTS: And if, for example, discovery reveals that they were overpaid by millions of dollars because what we paid at Level 5 should have been submitted at Level 3 or 4, we submit a right to recoupment. And that's still an affirmative defense. It's still what we've raised. And we're entitled to discovery on that issue.

THE COURT: Right. All right. So Mr. Roberts -MR. ROBERTS: I think that the issue of the chart -THE COURT: I'm sorry. I keep interrupting.

MR. ROBERTS: -- and the summary, I need to address that again, Your Honor.

The whole idea that if we dispute something in their chart, that we can raise that and they'll try to prove it, is just totally contrary to Nevada law. NRS 52.275 summaries says that the contents of voluminous writings, recordings, or photographs, which cannot be conveniently examined in Court may be presented in the form of a chart summary for calculations. Item 2 is, The originals

shall be made available for examination or copy or both -- both parties at a reasonable time and place.

So it essentially would be the same thing as me standing up in Court with a big chart, and them objecting to it because they haven't gotten the underlying documents. And -- and I would point to them and say, which one do you dispute? And I'll get you that document, but otherwise it's admissible.

That's not the way evidence goes, and that doesn't comply with 16.1. If they want to use this chart in support of their claims, we are entitled to a copy of every document upon which they base that chart. And the fact that we may be able to dig out documents and our own records and attempt to match those up ourselves, doesn't relieve them of their obligation under 16.1 to give us the documents that they obviously have already compiled in order to prepare that chart. They don't get to hide those documents from us. They don't get to refuse to produce those documents. They must be already compiled. Assuming they just didn't make up this chart out of thin air, they already have those documents compiled and in a form that allowed them to compare it. And we are seeking to have the Court to compel them to what they should have already done in their initial disclosures, without us even asking for it.

And unless the Court has any questions, [indiscernible].

THE COURT: No. Well, I guess my question is, the plaintiff in its bills gave the CPT codes. And this is a rate of pay case. There is no counterclaim.

If you are trying to recover money from them, you had the ability to do that when you filed your answer. I just don't see how the records you're seeking here are relevant to the plaintiffs' complaint. So if -- one last bite at the apple.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, Your Honor. I think those are two separate issues. We've raised an affirmative defense of recoupment that if we overpaid on one claim, we should be able to use that to offset amounts owed on another claim. That's an affirmative defense and not a counterclaim.

But I would go further and just say again, Your Honor, the fact that they say it's a rate of payment case, doesn't mean that's all it is. The fact that they want to avoid the need to prove that they performed the services for which they're seeking to be paid should not eliminate the requirement to prove that. The simple due process entitles us to have them prove their entire case and not simply the one element that they want to place at issue -- the rate of pay, because you never get to the rate of payment, if you haven't proved that the services were performed and that they were performed at the level for which they were coded.

And the fact that United chose not to request those documents and make a payment instead, doesn't mean United waived the right to challenge it once they brought this lawsuit. You could make the same time argument as waiver, that their quiet acceptance for years of the payments they now dispute should preclude them from contending that they were underpaid.

The fact that the -- they submitted a claim in reliance on that coding we paid the amounts they now dispute should not prevent United from requiring them to prove their entire case, not just the part of their case which they would like to focus on.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Roberts. This is the Defendant's Motion to Compel clinical documents.

The motion will be denied without prejudice. However, the parties will be required to meet and confer meaningfully, and within the next two weeks on a protocol to match data points, and for the reasons that I've brought up in my questions to both of you.

Mr. Roberts, I do see it as a rate-of-pay case. The two of you are trying completely different theories -- the defendant, of course, continues to resist the plaintiffs' grounds for its complaint.

But I just don't see -- when the plaintiff bills the CPT codes, it doesn't put a burden on the defendant to make the plaintiff prove what was actually done clinically. On a rate of -- in the rate of payment type of case, it's the plaintiffs' burden to prove that the rate was wrong.

So I don't see where the clinical records matter.

Everything here is based upon the bills that were provided by the plaintiff.

Now, that takes us to the Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel.

And then we have a status check.

MR. ROBERTS: Your Honor, just to clarify for the record, are you also refusing to compel them to give us the documents that

they relied upon to compile their spreadsheet?

THE COURT: At this time, yes. And that's why it's without prejudice so that you have a meaningful meet and confer with regard to a protocol to match data points.

And I'm looking for the next hearings we have for a report on that. It can be individual or status -- joint status reports. I believe that there -- well, we've got two other hearings set on October 29th, November 4th. I'm not sure that either of these is going to go forward. So I can give you a return date in three weeks, if that's amenable to everyone.

MR. ROBERTS: Yes, Your Honor.

MS. GALLAGHER: That's agreeable, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You know, I am supposed to go to the American College of Business Court Judges. If I get up the nerve to board an airplane on the 28th and 29th of this month. So can we set it -- let's set it on Wednesday, November 4th on the -- just on a -- at 10:30 a.m., just a stacked calendar for status?

And Nicole McDevitt, did you get that date?

THE CLERK: November 4th at 10:30 for status.

THE COURT: Very good. All right.

So I believe next is the Plaintiffs' Motion to Excel.

MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.

This is Kristen Gallagher. So this is our Motion to Compel witnesses, answers to interrogatories, and responsive documents.

As Your Honor has probably seen, through the

declarations submitted, that we have engaged in multi-hour meet and confers with United in order to try and just basically move this case forward and get information that we need in order to prosecute this case.

As you know, we have significant specific allegations in the first amended complaint that are not, you know, general in the sense. We know what we're looking for, and we have been opposed in trying to get that information.

You know, I wish in some regards you could sit in on some of these, because I feel like I'm on a merry-go-round. We get on a call. Think that things are moving forward. United's going to --council is going to talk to United and then when we get back on the next call, it sort of is like we've started over again.

So the frustration level, I don't know if it came through our papers. I'm expressing it now that it has been frustrating because --

THE COURT: Well, I can tell you -- whoa, whoa -- hang on.

THE WITNESS: -- we know there's information about certain strategies --

THE COURT: I'm going to stop you, Ms. Gallagher. I have never seen the word sophistry and baloney in the same pleading, ever, in 10 years of the bench or 27 years of being a lawyer on top of that.

Anyways, so go ahead, please.

MS. GALLAGHER: Well, and I'll follow along to that, I certainly haven't been practicing as long as in the context of being a

judge, but, you know, I engage in commercial litigation, and generally speaking this is probably the most frustrated I've been in terms of trying to get substantive information. And I don't say that lightly.

You know, certainly, I like to get along with my opposing counsel. I look to work forward on merits, and you know, have that as a legal discussion. But some of this isn't just advocacy, unfortunately, what we've seen.

We identified a few instances in our opening papers, in terms of sort of the unbelievable position that United will take, like, for example, the fair health database. We all know that it has [indiscernible] that along with some other payers. It uses it. It says it uses it on its legal web site, and then we get into meet and confer efforts, and we get responses like, oh, you want us to ask if they're using it? And oh, we didn't understand that's what you requested when your request for production asked if you stopped using it, why did you stop using it?

So that's just but one example. I certainly don't want to belabor the point, because I think our motion lays it out. But I would like to respond because there was an opposition that was filed, I would like to make sure that I have an opportunity to respond to that.

So with respect to witnesses, United as indicated that they've taken some moves at this point because since we filed the motion, they have supplemented with five new witnesses, which

simply isn't sufficient. We know that United has a significant number of people that are involved, both at the strategy and decision-making level, all the way down to claims representatives who have information about the methodology, the procedures, the Data iSight interplay. And none of these people have been identified for us. One of the five new witnesses that were identified just a few days ago, on September 30th, there -- it's former employee, no information about how to contact that person.

I also note that United doesn't tell us what that witness may have information about. What we see is a generalized statement about this person may have [indiscernible] information relating to the claims and defenses. So it doesn't help us in terms of targeting -- you know, do we really need to talk to this person that they just disclosed or not?

We also with respect -- with respect to Answer to Interrogatory No. 8, we've identified that. We have asked for specific witness information regarding methodology and two other categories of information. United has refused to provide us that information.

We've had multiple meet and confers on it. At this point, I don't know, other than maybe [indiscernible] on the same information, but, you know, then we're just sort of into gamesmanship. You know, we've asked the question. We are entitled to know who has information about certain things that are squarely within our first amended complaints.

You know, we're not asking for information outside the four corners. We're asking for who knows about how reimbursement data methodologies are set? Who has information about the particular claims? So we think that the issue is not moot. And we would ask that Your Honor order them to identify not only the full extent of United witnesses, but also, as we've asked, third parties like the iSight. We certainly know that they have a long-term relationship that dates back at least 10 years. We know that there's interplay and that iSight is becoming an even more important part of United's business in terms -- and obviously with respect to the allegations we've made in terms of the scheme, the alleged scheme to basically rewrite, reimbursement rates as they please and as United announced that it would, because they can.

So we would like that information. We need to know who they are talking to so that we can test and find the evidence that will support our pleadings, because this information is squarely within the -- you know, within themselves. This is not something that we can go out and identify otherwise. So we would ask that they be compelled to identify those witnesses without any further delay.

With respect to the second temporary market data. United says that they're going to produce it in 14 days. They say it's going to be Las Vegas market data, and it simply isn't going to do, Your Honor.

We have one entity that's Churchill. We have another entity that's Elko County. So to limit it to Las Vegas, which means

even maybe more narrow than even a Clark County market data, simply isn't something that we've agreed to. You know, I think they're just trying to more narrowly narrow what we're entitled to.

We also are concerned, in terms of, you know, the Nevada market data, because again, it's important for us to know the national data, because as we have alleged, there is no difference between the different markets -- even though they say there are. The PRAs that have Data iSight. Data iSight says that it's based on geographic, but it's not, based on our information. So it's important that we have information outside of just the scope of [indiscernible] trying to Las Vegas. So we would ask for all information related to just market data be produced.

And the frustrating part is United has made a couple of different arguments about that -- you know, they're in the process of doing it [indiscernible] we should have brought this Motion to Compel. But they're at the point where, you know, we just shouldn't have to [indiscernible]. These were originally due in early January. They provided substantive responses at the end of January. And so here we are in October, [indiscernible] end of the year cutoff, and I don't know how much patience there can be.

I'm afraid maybe we've been too patient, based on timing.
But to hear continually that we will be going to, just at this point
doesn't cut it.

With respect to the third category of requests and answers to interrogatories, the methodology is really an important piece of

this. United tries to hide behind a plan. And we've heard this, you know, they refer to the administrative marker, they refer this plan, the plans are their guide. But we know that that's not actually true.

There are a few documents that we've managed to get. And the administrative document from United -- is not plan specific in the sense that for each of the 20,000 claims there's going to be a different language in there. No. United has different plans, you know, a gold plan, a choice plan. And so within their type of plan, they may offer information about, you know, what they're going to pay.

But the methodology of how they determine what they're going to pay is not plan specific. In fact, some of the documents that United has produced, talks about, the iSight and the methodology. If you choose this plan, you're going to have this methodology. So the methodology is how do they calculate? What is the data? What information? What market they are using? Are they using information that is complete? Are they skewing the information that's in their data set? That's methodology.

We also want the strategy making, decision making, behind how United has set up methodology. This is the largest, if not the largest, public insurance carrier in the nation. And so to think that there are no documents that have detailed or set out or recorded what the plan is, there is a plan here. There is a structured plan that has taken years to implement, and we know that from just the [indiscernible] agreement that we've gotten, and so we are

entitled to that information because it falls squarely within the allegations in the complaint.

We also know that the PRAs -- that the provider remittance advise forms -- that United issues and generates does refer to cost data or paid data, when they indicated using Data iSight. But again, this methodology is something that can't be hidden behind at undue burden declaration of Sandra [indiscernible]. It doesn't need to be down to the claim-by-claim level. This is a higher level look at what United's plan strategy is that we certainly know is at play.

And that reference that I missed, Your Honor, to the cost [indiscernible] and multiplan data information is at our Exhibit 8, just for your reference, so that you can see that there is discussion about Data iSight's patented reference to based methodology. Apparently United is not using Data iSight without knowing what that methodology is. There's some indication that United is directing and dictating that methodology as well. So we would expect to have those documents produced as soon as possible.

That leads me into the next section, which is still decision making and strategy. They say it's in the process of applying those terms. To me this means they haven't done anything.

And again, the time line, I don't want to, you know, [indiscernible] it too often, but we are here many months of these were due. And for them to be just in the process of applying search terms tells me they haven't done anything. United also tries to use the ESI protocol as a way for sort of allowing them to continue to

push this out.

in-network data.

However, I think the Court was very clear at the last hearing, that the ESI protocol discussion that the parties are in process with would not alleviate anybody's discovery obligations.

Just to hear that they don't even -- they're not even reviewing, there's not even an imminent rolling production is a little bit

disconcerting, so we would ask that the Court compel production of documents and interrogatories in those categories.

United makes a distinction between in-network and out-of-network. And I would like to say that it's a distinction that is not something that is appropriate in terms of at this discovery stage. Certainly if they want to make that argument later, let them. But it's informative that United has asked us for both in-network and out-of-network reimbursement data. We are in the process of getting that information and producing it. And so I think United recognizes that the commercial payer data, as sort of a general description, is what is going to be -- at least what the parties are going to look at, whether or not, you know, down the road in terms of evidentiary perspective, we can deal with that later. But we are entitled to both in-network and out-of-network. And that was -- [indiscernible] Request For Production No. 87 is where they asked for

United also objects to some -- some of the issues with respect to trade secrets under the Nevada statute, and it's proprietary information as well as their customer information. I

think, you know, we're well established at this point that we have a protective order. United is not shy about identifying things that is attorneys' eyes only. So I think that provides the most protection. We did discuss during meet and confer efforts that we might do a blinded exchange where its blinded and attorney's eyes only set and then perhaps a confidential set, and then maybe an unblinded set that would be attorney's eyes only. Those were discussions we had. Obviously United hasn't gone forward and produced any information, so we haven't gotten to that point.

The next section is rental, wrap, and shared savings program. United has now used the delay of a retained consultant to indicate that they have matched data points and trying to figure out whether or not there's any information on whether or not there should have been a wrap or shared savings program applied to the litigation claims.

This is sort of a distraction and perhaps not understanding what the request is. But we'd asked United to tell us if you -- if any of the litigation claims you didn't pay because you think there's a shared savings or a rental or rent network, let us know.

We have actually produced a second set of data that provides information about, in the same time period, claims that were paid by a shared savings program or pursuant to a shared savings program. So United actually already has the data. We just wanted them to come forward and say, hey, if there's any in this litigation set, tell us now or forever hold your peace.

So to transform it into that they need to look at each line I don't think is necessarily accurate. I think they know what's in this market with respect to these particular emergency departments, if they have access to a shared network, that they would know that, and they don't need to look line by line.

But regardless, we would ask that they also be required to produce information if they have any. If they don't, we're sort of looking to say -- for them to say, no, we don't have that information or we don't have that applicability to the litigation claims.

Everything that had a network shared savings program is appropriately listed in your other spreadsheet. It's --

Again, it's -- just sometimes we're just looking for simple information that we just are getting one roadblock after the other after the other. United, I think now, has used the consultant explanations for several different rounds of motions. I'm not sure exactly how many -- how many days at this point that we're waiting for the consultant to finish looking at the data points, but I guess we'll find out in the meet and confer effort sort of where that expert is at.

Okay. The next section are the Data iSight-related documents. Obviously, this is really one of the core issues of our complaint in terms of, you know, what are they doing? What have they done? What have they strategized? What have they decided to do? What plans have they implemented?

We've gotten really just the paucity of information. We've

gotten the network access agreement, and I think eight or nine pages of documents that were identified as attorney's eyes only, but what I would describe as like a science preference checklist, nothing really substantive. We have asked for a list of how many claims have been processed by Data iSight. We've offered to have them run a time period so that we can then go back and pull which ones.

None of those offers of compromise have been met with, you know, any sort of engagement by United.

But at the end of the day, we have all their documents, and we would like them. We would like them whether they're in meeting minutes, whether they're in e-mails, whether they're in -- you know, whatever form or format they're in, we know they exist, and we would like that information as soon as possible.

The other point I would make with regard to the Data iSight is they often are talking about, We're not entitled to information because it's national data, and that this is just a Nevada case. Again, I want to reiterate, those are squarely within the allegations that we're saying that we need to be able to prepare. If they're saying this is Nevada and that this is the same as national market data, that's important. That goes directly to our claims, and so we would be entitled to that and they shouldn't be able to omit just because they're calling something national data.

And that's an important piece too, when we finally got the unredacted multiple plan agreement, you know, I won't go into it because it's AEO, and I want to be very cautious, but there really

were some -- there was some information in there that was on this national level that sort of was sleight of hand, if you will, in terms of why they said we shouldn't have been able to get it in the first place.

Okay. So the next category of documents regarding the at issues claims, United said they're already producing administrative records.

Again, you know, we take issue with this term administrative records every time.

And it's important, though, because I want to quote from a case, a Ninth Circuit case, it says quote, In the ERISA context, the administrative record consists of the papers the insured had when [indiscernible] claim, end quote. And I'm quoting from a case called *Montour versus Hartford Life*, 588 F.3d 623 at 632. Ninth Circuit 2009. And that's really important. You know, we've sort of belabor this point, but. It just goes to show you how important when United keeps referring to the administrative record, this is very specific. If they -- and in this case they had to deny the claims. We're not after any claims that are being denied.

So they keep hiding behind this administrative records. We think that are other platforms, [indiscernible] administrative policeman forms, claims management system -- other documents and information that exists outside of what would be considered an ERISA administrative record.

And so in terms of when United says it's already producing administrative records, we need more information than

from that. We haven't asked for just administrative records, and we go round and round on this in meet and confer efforts, but it's important again, because this is our case and this is not an administrative ERISA case.

And so in that context, I also want to bring out perhaps the status on United's production, which they have produced nine administrative records, detailing, like, nine dates of service for their numbers. As of the Court's last hearing, we think that the point that they are not in compliance with the order, because they were supposed to have produced documents by September 23rd. I realize that we will take this up perhaps in a status check at another time.

However -- I think it's important for the Court to know that in a month, almost exactly, since the last hearing, we've gotten nine administrative and nothing else. We know that United has 100,000 e-mails that it had been reviewing. We haven't received any of those. And so, you know, it also is interesting to see, you know what we're getting. We thought maybe we'd see it in order, how it appeared on a spreadsheet or maybe [indiscernible] intuitive like last name, date of service. It doesn't appear to be that way, so we're interested to see, you know, sort of how it plays out. You know, are these the only documents that United is going to find favorable? Does it favor -- you know, what the situation? So, you know, we're just sort of holding -- holding by, but just for the Court to understand that we certainly haven't gotten a lot of information since the last hearing.

Negotiations, United says it's working to [indiscernible] -United says it's working to collect and search. This is actually a
retreat from what it told us before. And this is my reference to the
hundred thousand e-mails that back in June we understood counsel
had on a platform and was reviewing.

To now say that it's working to collect and search, certainly is disheartening because it suggests that, you know, one of the two situations wasn't accurate at the time. So we just -- we would like the documents. We're entitled to them about the negotiations. It's not just between our client and United, even though that's how they framed it in the opposition. We asked for documents relating to the negotiations.

So we want to know, you know, in addition what was their -- what were the e-mails going back and forth offline, you know, internally, not forward facing to the representatives of the plaintiffs. So we would ask for an order compelling that as well, Your Honor.

I know there's a lot here. I appreciate your time,

Your Honor. But this sort of tells you that we haven't gotten a lot of
information that we've been asking for -- document --

Next category of documents about complaints that other network providers performing emergency department services have made on United. We think this is important. I mean, we think this is a nationwide plan and scheme to reduce reimbursement rates. And we would be surprised to -- if there weren't other providers in our same situation making the same complaints and would be interested

in that information. We think it's relevant, and we think it goes to the allegations that are in the complaint.

Next are prompt settlement claims. United refers again to the administrative records in an attempt to limit the records that we are entitled to get. So we want information about, you know, I'm sure they have some reporting. Are they, you know, meeting the Nevada prompt payment statutes in terms of asking for information, getting information, and making claims. That's what we would expect to see out of a company like United. We haven't gotten anything. And again, the administrative record is not the only personal information that United has, and we continue to object to it trying to use that as the framework for this case.

Finally, United's affirmative defenses, they have basically said they're not really working on it right now because they're working on the administrative record piece of it. I don't think those two go hand in hand. We had [indiscernible] meet and confer discussions about how only Sandra [indiscernible] and her department could handle the administrative record piece of it.

We had actually asked if there were other departments, other people that could work on pulling information about these things. And so when we were told only this one department can do it, that suggests to me, well, only they're working on it. That means there's, you know, other teams and is other groups that can work on the e-mails, that work on the strategy and those sort of documents.

So Your Honor, we would respectfully ask that you order

everything that we've asked for because it all falls squarely within the allegations. And we really would just like to get to the heart of the matter and start looking at documents, and -- and moving this case forward. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you.

And Mr. Roberts, Mr. Balkenbush, before I hear the opposition to this motion, we've gone for about two hours. I need a five-minute break for my personal comfort so that I can continue to attentively listen to all of the arguments.

So court will be in recess until about, let's say 3:33. Thank you.

[Recess taken from 3:28 p.m., until 3:34 p.m.]

THE COURT: Okay. I'm recalling the case of Fremont versus United. And I note the presence of all counsel.

I believe we are ready to hear the Defendant's Opposition to the Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel.

MR. BALKENBUSH: Thank you, Your Honor. And this is Colby Balkenbush for the defendants. I'll be presenting the opposition on this motion.

You know, this is a difficult motion to respond to because the truth is, as we set forth in our opposition papers, we have agreed to produce 90 or 95 percent of what they are seeking to compel us to produce.

The dispute is really over timing and the argument that United should just be doing this faster than it has been.

So let me address the timing issue, and then I'll address the few areas where there is a dispute as far as whether or not the Team Health Providers are entitled to the information they're seeking.

As to the timing issues, so what United has been attempting to do is respond to multiple requests and prioritize things that the Court has ordered it to produce already. So for example, this Court has ordered United to produce the administrative records for all 22,000-plus claims. We've been trying to prioritize that and a lot of these other requests -- the other information that we had hoped to produce sooner, but frankly we've fallen a little behind on because of some of the other discovery we're being pressed to produce.

What we've tried to do in our opposition is give dates when we believe we'll be able to produce those documents to Team Health. So, for example, we've listed the Data iSight closure reports. We state we believe we'll be able to produce those by October 23rd. For the market data for in-network and out-of-network reimbursement rates, we've stated we should be able to produce that in 14 business days.

And so we've tried to give some dates to show the Court that we are trying to comply with our discovery obligations. But frankly, there are a lot of documents at issue --

THE COURT: Mr. Balkenbush, Mr. Balkenbush, let me -- Mr. Balkenbush, I'm sorry, but I have to interrupt you. It doesn't

appear as though your client is taking a rational approach to its obligation to engage in discovery. Why couldn't things have been produced already?

MR. BALKENBUSH: So let me address -- I mean, there's a number of different document requests that are at issue,

Your Honor. Let me just address some of them then, specifically.

So for example, they're looking for documents that would show the methodology that was used to determine the amount of reimbursement paid on each of the claims at issue. Those documents would essentially -- the documents that show that would essentially be, one, the administrative records that this Court has already ordered United to produce. We produced approximately 1800 pages of those on September 30th. And we believe we're going to be able to produce another 35 administrative records next week. That production we believe will also be in the thousands of pages.

But one of the issues we've run into that has slowed things down is when we're trying to match this claims data -- match Team Health's claims data to our own is that there are errors in their spreadsheet. So for example, we've found instances where a patient will be listed with a date of service, and their spreadsheet will list in different places that patient being enrolled in different health plans. And so to find the data underlying that claim, the administrative records, for example, we have to look in the database that corresponds to the health plan the member was enrolled in.

And so we have had instances already as we've been trying to do this is that, you know, we've looked under a particular plan's database and haven't found the documents and have had to go look at another plan's database to try to find it. So that has slowed things down. That's one issue we're facing.

You know, another is just that this -- there is litigation all over the country very similar to this, between United and the Team Health Providers. And so United's business units that are tasked with trying to find and gather these documents aren't just dealing with requests from this case. Based on my conversations with our client, I believe that United is working hard to gather these documents and is putting pressure where it needs to be put to accelerate this process, but it is difficult given the number of documents at issue and the number of different requests, so I think that's, I guess, part of the explanation.

Another is just that these documents, many of these documents are not stored in a format that is easily -- easy to access -- the access and then produce.

As an example, Your Honor, the administrative records are not even stored in a TIF or PDF format. My understanding is they're actually -- the only way we can retrieve them is either to take a screenshot of the screen showing the record, or to essentially print the TIF or PDF, and then produce them. And so that also has slowed down the process.

So let me go into some of these, I guess, topics that

they've raised. A lot of these would be resolved with United producing a claim-matching spreadsheet and the administrative records. The methodology used to determine payment is going to be shown either by a claims spreadsheet, which should have a column showing essentially whether or not what plan was at issue and whether or not any wrap or shared savings program impacted the amount of reimbursement on that claim.

There should be a column for each of the claims that could show that, and the amount of reimbursement, how it was calculated, would also be shown in the administrative records we are trying -- we're in the process of producing or have started producing.

Another issue that they have raised are the negotiations between United and Fremont. More information on Data iSight. That's -- that information would be in custodian's e-mail inboxes. We have started gathering those and working on producing those. It's just frankly, Your Honor, there's so many discovery requests at issue here, it has -- we have been slowed down a little bit by the order to produce the administrative records.

Let me address the -- let me address some of the issues we dispute, because, again, a lot of the arguments Ms. Gallagher raised, we haven't argued that these documents are irrelevant or not discoverable. We just said we need more time. But there are a few where we do stand on our objections and are refusing to produce documents because we believe our objections have merit.

The first one is Request For Production 31. This is a

request where Fremont is seeking documents related to strategy and discussions regarding reimbursement rates. And we've agreed to produce those, but we've asked that it be limited to only documents that relate to plaintiffs' claims.

Their request, as written, seeks documents not only related to discussions about reimbursement rates for the plaintiffs, but for any other out-of-network providers. And that's just overbroad and seeks irrelevant information. So again, we're not refusing to produce, we just believe that request should be limited in that way.

The other issue that -- the other request we take issue with is in regard to certain Data iSight documents. So we've agreed to produce the closure reports. We've already produced the contracts with Data iSight. And we've produced the preference checklist.

But we have objected to producing national level multi[indiscernible] Data iSight data. And the reason we've objected is that there is no way to use that national level data and extrapolate to Nevada and the claims that are at issue here.

This data doesn't show reimbursement data for specification regions, like focused on Nevada; and it doesn't show reimbursement data focused on specific out-of-network providers like plaintiffs. This is national aggregate level data, and so our objection is just it would be -- that that would be irrelevant information for purposes of this lawsuit, would be meaningless because the rates shown there can't be extrapolated to the claims

that are at issue here.

The third discovery request that we object to is Request For Production 41. And so this seeks documents related to challenges to United's rate of reimbursement by other out-of-network emergency medicine groups. And our objection is that this does not relate to the claims at issue. This is seeking documents for any challenges by other nonparty out-of-network providers.

Now, again, if they are asking for documents, we're not objecting to producing documents from Team Healths, you know, or Fremont's challenges to United's rate of reimbursement. But they're asking something much broader. They're asking for any out-of-network provider that we be ordered to produce all documents related to challenges those providers have brought. Obviously, that would be an enormous number of documents. And it would also be difficult to limit -- and in fact, I think the request is not limited -- it's also not limited to the full time frame at issue here, which is July 2017 to present. It goes back beyond that.

So we do have limited objections to those three issues, Your Honor. But for the other ones, we essentially have agreed to produce the documents. We're just struggling to produce them as fast as plaintiffs would like us to produce them. And we're trying to give dates to the plaintiffs and to the Court when we think we can comply with our discovery obligations, but it's just difficult given the number of documents at issue and the different types of documents.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Balkenbush.

The reply then in support, please.

MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you, Your Honor. So I wanted to address those points in terms of the timing. You know, Mr. Balkenbush indicated that United is focusing on its production obligations for the administrative record.

As Your Honor knows, that order came out last month. And so we have this long period of time since January when these were originally due and most of the meet and confers where, you know, they're saying now, they've agreed to produce 90 to 95 percent, but sort of not, as indicated, the state of affairs. We've gotten push back and narrowing that we heard just a moment ago, as well, unilaterally narrowing what we've asked for.

So the timing, I just don't see how there's been an effort before now to try and comply and get us the information that we asked for. One point about the closure reports that's now being -- with respect to data iSight, now being promised on October 23rd. We've had meet and confer efforts back in June that said that we would have them by September 5th. We never got any. Now they're promised to 10/23.

You know, we just see this line in the sand being pushed further and further back until there's an actual order, you know, compelling United to participate reasonably in the discovery process, and not trying to just put a box around anything other than the administrative record, which we've heard again here in

opposition.

You know, United talks about market data in 14 business days. It would have been nice to have that information or that commitment before now; right? We had to bring a Motion to Compel before now. The spreadsheet on [indiscernible], you know, certainly if there's a particular issue, they've had our spreadsheets, the original ones, since last fall. So now we're just getting into a discussion on data points and had that compromise offered a while ago.

But what I'm hearing that's concerning is the methodology, and again trying to point to the plan. We know United's methodology is not in the plan. We know that when Dan -- Dennis [sic] Schumacher said, you know, because we can -- in response to why are you going to reduce reimbursement rates, we know that that is not in the plan. United does not look to the plan when it had negotiations with the health providers, when it says it was going to reduce the reimbursement rates. That's because it's a high level decision and strategy that is implemented. And that is the information that we want and that we're entitled to get, based on the allegations in the complaint.

So again, when you're hearing it firsthand, Your Honor, the administrative record is their go-to for everything. And I can tell you that it is only limited under federal law as to why an insurer denied a claim that has no application in this case. And to so suggest that there are e-mails about strategy, suggest that there's

information involving highest levels at United that's going to be in the administrative record is just -- it's not accurate, and it's not what we've limited our complaints to. It's not what we've limited these requests and interrogatories to. And so when representations that we've gotten some Data iSight information, it is so limited, Your Honor -- like the fact that we're getting a closure report is probably only because we accidentally hit on that name of a report.

And meet and confer efforts, we -- you know, we were met with, Well, you know, we don't know what you need. What do you think we might have? You know, and those are things that -- why we also objected to the e-mail protocol is we don't know what United calls them. We have a little bit more information from the multiplan agreement, because there are reports that are called out. We haven't gotten those reports, Your Honor.

So we know this exists. We know that when there is, you know, lots of money -- I won't use the exact amount because I don't want to be revealing anything -- but there is a lot of money involved in the multiplan and independent agreement. And so there is no chance that money is exchanged without reporting and without e-mails and without discussion about how it's going and what they should do to change it.

In fact, there's [indiscernible] in that agreement that tells us that we think plans were changed to accommodate the iSight entities.

And so to sit here and tell us that there isn't information,

other than a closure report, is simply not accurate, and not being even honest to the documents that we have gotten, which aren't very many.

So we would expect a full disclosure, not just limited to what United as indicated as closure reports. We know that there are performance reports, and they've actually objected to those as not being relevant. I don't know how they're not relevant. We have placed this scheme at issue and directly with specific allegations, and so we should be entitled to see what sort of performance reports, because as part of the scheme, they are shared, right, they are sharing in the profits when they artificially identify what they want the reimbursement rate to be.

And so any of that information relating to that would be related to [indiscernible].

With respect to Request for Production No. 31, that Mr. Balkenbush indicated, again, this is the high-level strategy. Plaintiffs' claim, you know, he only wants it with respect to plaintiffs' claims. That simply isn't going to work for us, Your Honor. We need the high level. We know that this isn't planned level specific. This is strategy at the highest levels of this company -- and its affiliates. I mean, really, all of these affiliates, Data iSight, and we expect that there is information.

With respect to Request For Production 41, I believe is the other one Mr. Balkenbush indicated, is relating to any challenges and complaints by other out-of-network emergency department service

providers -- this is absolutely relevant. We think this is a plan that would -- has been set out across the nation.

If there are other providers that are having similar experiences and making the same complaints that they can't believe or asking why that these reimbursement rates have been all of a sudden reduced without any demonstrable data to support it, I think that's relevant. And I think that we should be entitled to that, Your Honor.

So I think overall, you're seeing a little bit -- hearing a little bit of that administrative record talk again. Really, that is one piece of this case. It's important. I don't want to minimize the information that we're going to get. But it's also a misnomer. We want, like we said in our claims, Motions to Compel claims filed, we want all claims information -- not just what United is deeming is an administrative record.

We want e-mails. We know they exist. They haven't been produced on any level.

And we're just ready to get this information so we can get moving.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you.

THE COURT: Just a couple of questions, Ms. Gallagher.

Have you ever prioritized for the defendant what you want to have produced first, next, last?

MS. GALLAGHER: I have not, Your Honor.

1	THE COURT: You have not?
2	MS. GALLAGHER: I have not, you know, prioritized for
3	THE COURT: Okay.
4	MS. GALLAGHER: United. You know, I certainly haven't
5	made that request either.
6	THE COURT: And how long would it take you to prioritize
7	it?
8	MS. GALLAGHER: By tomorrow or Monday.
9	THE COURT: I was going to say the 13th or 14th. Today is
10	the 8th.
11	MS. GALLAGHER: I can meet that.
12	THE COURT: Which day?
13	MS. GALLAGHER: I can meet that, Your Honor.
14	THE COURT: Which day?
15	MS. GALLAGHER: I'll go with the earlier of the two, the
16	13th.
17	THE COURT: October 13th. Thank you.
18	All right. This is the Plaintiffs' Motion to Compel.
19	The motion will be granted in all respects.
20	I overrule the objections to RFP 31, the objection to
21	providing national Data iSight data; and overrule the objections to
22	rule Request For Production 41. So all of the objections are
23	overruled. The motion is granted in its entirety.
24	The plaintiff will incorporate into the order the deadlines in
25	the opposition with regard to willingness and the defendant will be

held to those deadlines.

By the 13th of October, the plaintiff will prioritize the remaining issues for the defendant, and the defendant will respond by the 20th of October -- that gives you a week, Mr. Balkenbush.

And this will be back on calendar on October 22 at 10 a.m.

And I am not usually so forthcoming, but with COVID I feel like these business court cases you need to know what I'm thinking.

Mr. Balkenbush, if your client can't meet the deadlines, I will have no choice to make -- but to make negative inferences.

I don't fault you in any way. I understand that it is a problem with your client, and I don't blame you in any respect.

But this case has just gone on too long with not enough effort.

So Ms. Gallagher to prepare the order.

Mr. Balkenbush, you will approve the form of that order, if you can. If you can't, explain why. I'll either sign, interlineate, or hold a telephonic. But you'll have to have a reasonable time, and I will not accept a competing order.

Any questions from either of you on that?

MS. GALLAGHER: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

MR. BALKENBUSH: Your Honor, no question in regards to the process of submitting the order or objecting to the proposed order.

I guess in regard to the October 22nd status check, would the Court take into consideration if a rolling production has been

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1	made of, I guess, the categories of documents that Ms. Gallagher
2	identifies for us in her, I guess, October 13th e-mail or letter to us?
3	Or is it the Court's position that everything needs to be produced?
4	What I'm trying to get understand is that, for example
5	THE COURT: Sure.
6	MR. BALKENBUSH: you know, a rolling production of
7	e-mails is one thing. Producing every single responsive e-mail, I do
8	think would be unworkable by October 22nd.
9	THE COURT: It's not my intent to require all of the
10	production by the 22nd, but to determine what the priority is and set
11	deadlines for each category. And that will be set in stone as of the
12	22nd.

MR. BALKENBUSH: Understood, Your Honor. Thank you for that clarification.

THE COURT: Okay. And your timeline, Mr. Balkenbush, should say when things can be done and explain, based upon the order of priority given to you by the plaintiff.

Now, anything further?

MR. BALKENBUSH: Understood, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay. Now, I -- we have on calendar today a motion -- the Defendant's Motion for a Protective Order with regard to protocols, retrieval, and production of e-mail? Is that still on?

MR. BALKENBUSH: So, Your Honor, that motion, the Court denied without prejudice, I believe. And then ordered the parties to meet and confer on an ESI protocol.

THE COURT: Mm-hmm.

MR. BALKENBUSH: We have spoken with plaintiffs' counsel about that. They've requested some additional information from us regarding the format, certain files are stored in that we have.

And I believe the next step there is that plaintiffs are going to send us a draft ESI protocol that they are comfortable with, and then we'll respond to that. I don't believe we've received that yet.

So I think that is an issue that can probably be maybe tabled and brought up again at the October 22nd status check.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Balkenbush.

The plaintiff, is there a response to that?

MS. GALLAGHER: Just a brief response. That's generally accurate in terms of our discussions. And we are taking the laboring or the Health Care Providers in drafting the ESI.

I think what would be helpful is just additional information from United. We have engaged in the discussion about their claims management system and where we might find additional information. And we sort of were stalled in that regard and got only information, again, regarding where administrative records may be kept. So it would be helpful.

We're trying to craft something, not knowing what United's various platforms are, you know, and we ask -- they either, you know, didn't know at the time and we haven't gotten that follow-up.

So I think if there could be just a push for additional

information that we can fill in so that we can get it going and perhaps have an agreement by the 22nd, that would be helpful.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Is there a reply, Mr. Balkenbush?

MR. BALKENBUSH: Yeah. I think it would just be helpful -- once we have the draft ESI protocol from the plaintiffs, and we will expedite our review of that, I think it's -- we just need to receive that to know, you know, how close we are apart, as far as terms, instead -- but would the Court rejected our ESI protocol or e-mail protocol in the prior motion. So we've essentially asked the plaintiffs to give us something that they're -- they're comfortable with.

THE COURT: Okay. Do both of you think you can give me an update on the 22nd of October on this issue?

MS. GALLAGHER: Yes, Your Honor.

MR. BALKENBUSH: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you, both.

This Motion for Protective Order then will be continued for status only on October 22nd.

And we also have a status check, and I did see a status report this morning from the plaintiff.

Is it necessary to discuss that today?

MS. GALLAGHER: Your Honor, I was able to weave that in with the argument about the status of the administrative record production to date. Thank you.

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1	THE COURT: Good enough.				
2	And will Mr. Balkenbush, or Mr. Roberts, do you both				
3	agree that we don't need to have the status check in lieu of the fact				
4	that we've already argued everything else?				
5	MR. BALKENBUSH: I agree, Your Honor.				
6	THE COURT: Okay. Very good.				
7	So I guess I'll be seeing you guys a lot in October and				
8	November. So until then, stay safe and healthy.				
9	And are you guys working full time on this case?				
10	Don't answer that. Okay.				
11	MS. GALLAGHER: Appreciate your time this afternoon.				
12	Thank you.				
13	THE COURT: Never make never should make an attempt				
14	at humor. Thank you both.				
15	MS. GALLAGHER: All right.				
16	MR. BALKENBUSH: Thank you, Your Honor.				
17	[Proceeding concluded at 4:02 p.m.]				
18	* * * * * *				
19	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly				
20	transcribed the audio/video proceedings in the above-entitled case				
21	to the best of my ability.				
22	1 M. M. 10				
23	Katherine McMally				
24	Katherine McNally				

Katherine McNally

Independent Transcriber CERT**D-323 AZ-Accurate Transcription Service, LLC

EXHIBIT 26

EXHIBIT 26

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Kent Bristow

Senior Vice President, Revenue Management

With more than 25 years of professional experience in accounting and operations, Kent brings a wealth of knowledge to revenue management. His expertise in managed care and fiscal services puts him in the right position to lead TeamHealth across all service lines in the areas of:

- revenue projections for all mergers and acquisitions and new business opportunities
- · all managed care contracting and negotiations with health plans
- supervision of fiscal responsibilities of TeamHealth disputes with health plans related to billing and reimbursement issues
- · advocacy and legislative affairs associated with reimbursement policies and regulations
- management of TeamHealth's Coding Quality Assurance program
- · outsourced billing services

Prior to joining TeamHealth in 1997, Kent worked at KPMG in the audit division and at Pershing Yoakley & Associates providing healthcare accounting and consulting services. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

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Paula Dearolf, CPC



Paula Dearolf, CPC



Executive Vice President, Revenue Cycle Operations at TeamHealth

Knoxville, Tennessee · 49 connections

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Experience



Executive Vice President, Revenue Cycle Operations

TeamHealth

Nov 1994 - Present · 26 years 3 months

Knoxville, Tennessee Area

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BPO Manager at TeamHealth

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Kathleen Jonas

Allowable Manager at TeamHealth

Alcoa, TN



Lois Findlan

Billing Operations Analyst at TeamHealth

Fort Lauderdale, FL



Cindy Felty

Correspondence clerk at TeamHealth

Maryville, TN



B. Michelle Corsaglia

Anesthesia Coding Manager at Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Knoxville Metropolitan Area



Sarah Shaffer, MPH

Business Analyst at TeamHealth

Knoxville, TN



LaTronda Gillespie-Todd

Assistant Director IT Client Services at TeamHealth

Knoxville Metropolitan Area



Robin Burnette, CPC, CMPE

Director, Revenue Cycle Support at TeamHealth

Knoxville, TN



Tony Vetrano

CFO of HCFS a division of Team Health

Knoxville, TN



Hamilton Lempert

Chief Medical Officer of Coding Policy at TeamHealth



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Executive Vice President, Revenue Cycle Operations at TeamHealth

Executive Vice President, Revenue Cycle Operations at TeamHealth

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David Greenberg



David Greenberg

Vice President Payer Contracting & Strategy at Vein Clinics of America

Fort Lauderdale, Florida · 500+ connections

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Vice President Payer Contracting & Strategy

Vein Clinics of America

Mar 2020 - Present · 11 months



Vice President, Managed Care

TeamHealth

Nov 2018 - Mar 2020 · 1 year 5 months

Vice President, Managed Care



VP, National Payor Contracting

Sound Physicians

Jan 2017 - Nov 2018 · 1 year 11 months



TeamHealth

10 years 9 months

Vice President, Managed Care

Dec 2013 - Jan 2017 \cdot 3 years 2 months

National managed care responsibility for professional anesthesiology services. SE regional responsibility for emergency medicine, hospital medicine, and urgent care services.

Director, Managed Care

May 2006 - Nov 2013 · 7 years 7 months



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David Greenberg



Regional Vice President of Operations & COO of S. FL. Pediatric Partners

Kelson Pediatric Partners

Sep 2003 - Oct 2005 · 2 years 2 months



Regional Vice President of Operations

TeamHealth

2001 - 2003 · 2 years

Mgr. Hospital Contracts; NICU Regional Mgr.; Dir. Ped. Sub-Specialties

Pediatrix Medical Group

1995 - 2001 · 6 years

Director - Expansion, Acquisitions & Facilities

PCA Family Medical Centers

1994 - 1995 · 1 year

Manager, Physician Services

Broward Health

1989 - 1993 · 4 years

Education

University of Florida

MBA, MHA · Heath Care Administration & Business Administration

1985 - 1988

Stony Brook University

BA · Economics and Business

1981 - 1985

Also attended FAU part-time/evenings and graduated in 2001 with a BS in Accounting.

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David Greenberg

Licenses & Certifications

Certified Public Accountant

State of Florida Dept. of Business and Professional Regulation

Groups

Managed Care Connections

Broward County Gator Club

Healthcare & Medical Practice Professionals

The Managed Care Leadership Network

Managed Care Contracting Group

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Healthcare CEO leader with Private Equity growth and multi-site physician practice management roll up experience

Miami, FL



Rene Zipper, MBA, FACHE

Vice President of Sales at CollaborateMD an EverCommerce Company

Miami-Fort Lauderdale Area



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Miami, FL



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Managing Director - Executive Search at Adaptive Medical Partners

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Rena Harris



Rena Harris

Sr. Contract Manager at TeamHealth

Greater Los Angeles Area · 10 connections





Cal State Northridge

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Experience



Senior Contract Manager

TeamHealth

Oct 2015 - Present · 5 years 4 months

Greater Los Angeles Area

Responsible for negotiation, re-negotiation and administration of Emergency Room and Hospitalists physician groups Agreements staffed at various hospitals in the states of AZ, CA, CO, ID, KS, NV, NM OK,OR, TX, WA and WY. Negotiate with various Managed Care entities for products which includes but not limited to Commercial, Medi-Cal, Medi-Care and Exchange products. Additional responsibilities include collaborating with billing centers on resolving billing and day to day issues.

Kindred

Manager of Managed Care Contracting

Kindred Healthcare

Nov 2013 - Oct 2015 · 2 years

Greater Los Angeles Area



Sign in

Jennifer (JJ) Shrader



Jennifer (JJ) Shrader

Vice President, Managed Care

Knoxville, Tennessee Area · 127 connections



TeamHealth



University of Tennessee-Knoxville

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Experience



TeamHealth

24 years

Managed Care

2005 - Present · 16 years Knoxville, TN

CFO, Regional

2000 - 2005 · 5 years Knoxville, TN

Corporate Accounting

1997 - 2000 · 3 years

Knoxville, TN

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Jennifer (JJ) Shrader

Internal Auditor

First Tennessee Bank

1993 - 1994 · 1 year

Knoxville, Tennessee Area

Education

University of Tennessee-Knoxville

MAcc

1992 - 1993

Carson-Newman University

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) · Accounting

1988 - 1992

Licenses & Certifications

CPA, Inactive

Organizations

TSCPA



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Jennifer (JJ) Shrader

Healthcare Executives Network

Managed Care Contracting Group

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Ketul Patel

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Jinu Stephen, MHA

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Ed Hamilton, FACHE

System Director Strategy Development Oklahoma City, OK



Kathleen L Adams

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Contract Manager, Market & Network Services Cleveland Clinic Florida Stuart, FL



Jamie Roberts, MBA, MHSM

Network Relations Manager at Aetna Irving, TX



Ketul Patel

Associate at Eximer Capital New York, NY



Ronnie Gainey

Unix System Administrator at First Horizon Bank Knoxville, TN

Jonathan Rule, FACHE

Chief Hospital Executive at INTEGRIS Health Edmond Oklahoma City, OK

Cara Vaughn

Instructional Coach at Knox County Schools Knoxville, TN

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Rena Harris

resolution. Collaborating with Central Business Office and key...

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Children's Hospital Los Angeles

2 years 4 months

Manager, Managed Care Contracting

Aug 2011 - Aug 2013 · 2 years 1 month

Los Angeles

Responsible for negotiation and administration of Commercial, Medi-Cal and Vision Managed Care contracts, including Delegated Medical Group and Delegated Hospital contracts. Coordination and contract negotiation with out of area hospitals in transferring patients to and from CHLA. Additional responsibilities include staff management, day-to-day department operations. Collaborating with Patient Financial Services, Admitting and other internal hospital departments to streamline operational...

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Sr. Contract Specialist

May 2011 - Aug 2011 · 4 months

Los Angeles

Responsible for negotiation and administration of Medi-Cal Managed Care contracts. Additional responsibilities include day-to-day department operations collaborating with Patient Financial Services, Admitting and other internal hospital departments to streamline operational processes.

Senior Network Manager

Anthem Blue Cross

Jan 2005 - Nov 2010 · 5 years 11 months

Woodland Hills



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Rena Harris

development, complaints/grievances, and provider database operations for...

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Manager, Managed Care Contracting

Catholic Healthcare West

Oct 2002 - Jan 2005 · 2 years 4 months

Camarillo

Responsible for the negotiation and administration of 30 managed care contracts for CHW's Ventura Region (St. John's Regional Medical Center and St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital). Additional responsibilities included maintenance and development of positive internal and external relationships, troubleshoot complex contractual issues, and manage staff.

Program Manager

Pacificare of California

Oct 2000 - Oct 2002 · 2 years 1 month

Cypress

Act as a liaison between Pacificare of California and seventy-seven (77) Los Angeles area provider groups for the evaluation, implementation and development of disease management and healthcare quality programs.

Blue Shield of California

4 years 1 month

Senior Provider Relations Coordinator/Contract Manager

Nov 1998 - Oct 2000 · 2 years

Woodland Hills

Responsible for the day-to-day contracting and operational issues for ancillary/tertiary providers, medical groups and hospitals for over 80,000 commercial and Medicare assigned members.



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Rena Harris

over 40,000 commercial and Medicare members. Additional duties included network analysis, ad hoc projects, and provider contracting.

Education

Cal State Northridge

Health Administration

1994 - 1997

Groups

California Managed Care (Local Initiatives)

Managed Care Contracting Group

Provider Relations, Payer Relations & Healthcare Contracting Group

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Rena Harris



Ketzia Woodard

igoplus The "I.T." Girl for Dallas Recruitment igoplus

Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex



Ken Willoughby

Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant

Greater Cleveland



Denise Strickland

Clinical Practice Manager at TeamHealth

Shelby County, TN



Jude Kotsko MD, FACEP

Emergency Medicine Physician at Riverside Health System

Virginia Beach, VA



Sandra Nichols

Clinical Coordinator for APRN Programs, Assistant Professor, Adult-Gero NP Concentration

Coordinator at Northern Kentucky University

Norfolk, VA



Ana (Lissette) Mendoza

Director, Provider Network Management at Anthem, Inc.

South Pasadena, CA



pari khattak

__

United States

Katherine Machado

Practice Coordinator at TeamHealth

Fort Lauderdale, FL

Jeri Humphries

Physician Assistant at TeamHealth

Lancaster, KY

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Rena Harris

Rena Harris

Executive Director at Georgia Options, Inc.

Lawrenceville, GA

Rena Harris

Parking Professional with 20 years experience in design, consulting and operations Atlanta, GA

Rena Harris

Student at Touro College

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

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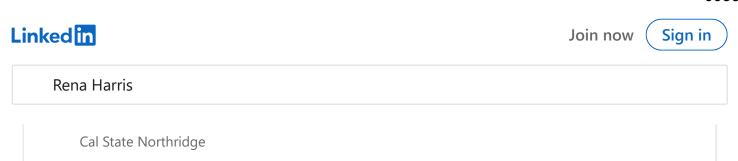
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EXHIBIT 27

EXHIBIT 27

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KRISTEN T. GALLAGHER (NSBN 9561)
AMANDA M. PERACH (NSBN 12399)
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Telephone: (702) 873-4100
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kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com
aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

DISTRICT OF NEVADA

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada professional corporation,

Plaintiff,

VS.

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.: 2:19-cv-00832-JAD-VCF

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA), LTD.'S OBJECTIONS AND ANSWERS TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES

Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd. ("Fremont") hereby responds to defendants United HealthCare Insurance Company ("UHCIC"), United HealthCare Services, Inc. ("UHS"), UMR, Inc. ("UMR"), Oxford Health Plans, Inc. ("Oxford"), Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc. ("SHL"), Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc. ("SHO") and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. ("HPN") (collectively "UnitedHealthcare" or "Defendants")'s First Set of Interrogatories, served to Fremont's counsel pursuant to FRCP 33.

INTERROGATORIES

Interrogatory No. 1:

Identify and describe all of the Healthcare Claims that Fremont contends it is asserting in this Action. Your description should include, at a minimum, the following information: (a) the patient's name, (b) the patient's date of birth, (c) the patient's social security number, (d) the patient/insured's I.D. number, (e) the patient's account number, (f) the name of the medical provider, (g) the date the medical service was provided, (h) the amount billed by Fremont for the medical service, (i) the amount Defendants paid to Fremont, (j) the additional amount of reimbursement Fremont is demanding from Defendants, and (k) a brief description of the nature of the illness or injury that was being treated. This information may be provided in the form of a list, chart, spreadsheet and/or table if that is the most convenient/efficient way to provide the requested information.

Answer to Interrogatory No. 1:

Objection. This Interrogatory seeks information that is already in UnitedHealthcare's possession, is not proportional to the needs of this case in that it seeks information not necessary to any element of proof of any claim or defense and exceeds any reasonable request related to identification of the claims at issue (e.g. the patient/insured's I.D. number and the patient's account number, the name of the medical provider and a brief description of the nature of the illness or injury). In addition, this Interrogatory is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence because certain subparts have no relevance or bearing on the claims at issue in the litigation (e.g. the name of the medical provider or a brief description of the nature of the illness or injury that was being treated) and is compound. Further, Fremont objects to the request to provide a brief description of the nature of the illness or injury that was being treated because that information can be generally gleaned from the E/M Code, the Member's medical records, to the extent they are in UnitedHealthcare's possession, and documents that are within the possession of UnitedHealthcare.

Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, Fremont will produce a spreadsheet identifying the claims at issue in the litigation. Fremont further submits that the

claims at issue continue to accrue and the list being produced is only for claims in which services were provided on or before April 30, 2019.

Interrogatory No. 2:

Paragraph 36 of the Complaint states: "At all material times, the UH Parties were aware that Fremont was entitled to and expected to be paid at rates in accordance with the standards established by Nevada law." Identify all Nevada statutes and regulations that establish the rate of payment standards referenced in this paragraph.

Answer to Interrogatory No. 2:

Objection. This request improperly limits the allegations in Paragraph 36 of the Complaint (Fremont's breach of implied-in-fact contract claim) to statutory and regulatory authority as the term "Nevada law" encompasses common law and equitable remedies. Fremont further objects on the basis that this Interrogatory calls for a legal conclusion. Subject to the foregoing objections, Fremont responds, that in addition to the existence of a common law implied-in-fact contract, and other common law bases which support Fremont's claims, the following NRS and NAC provisions support its allegation: NRS 679B.152; NRS 683A.0879; NRS 686A.310; NRS 689A.0495; NRS 689A.410; NRS 689B.045; NRS 689B.255; NRS 689C.485; NRS 695C.179; NRS 695C.185; NAC 686A.270; NAC 686A.290; NAC 686A.306; NAC 686A.675; NRS 695G.170.

Interrogatory No. 3:

Paragraph 46 of the Complaint refers to "the rates required by Nevada law." Identify all Nevada statutes and regulations that this paragraphs is referring to.

Answer to Interrogatory No. 3:

See Objections and Response to Interrogatory No. 2.

Interrogatory No. 4:

To the extent Fremont contends that any of the Defendants orally promised/committed to reimburse Fremont at a particular rate for the Healthcare Claims that Fremont contends it is asserting in this Action, please identify the individual who made the oral promise/commitment, the approximate date the oral promise/commitment occurred, which Fremont employee the oral

promise/commitment was made to, and describe in detail the nature of the oral promise/commitment.

Answer to Interrogatory No. 4:

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Objection. This request is compound and is vague and ambiguous with respect to the phrase "oral promise/commitment." Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objections, UnitedHealthcare publicly commits that it pays for out-of-network services at the lower of the out-of-network provider's actual charge billed to the member, or "the reasonable and customary amount," "the usual, customary, and reasonable amount," "the prevailing rate," or other similar terms that base payment on what other healthcare professionals in a geographic area charge for their services. See FESM000335-341. UnitedHealthcare further represents that "the affiliates of UnitedHealth Group most commonly refer to a schedule of charges created by FAIR Health, Inc. ('FAIR Health') to determine the amount of the payment." Despite these commitments, "UnitedHealthcare uses a service called Data iSight to review select out-of-network claims and recommend a reduced payment amount for out-of-network covered services. When UnitedHealthcare reduces payment of Fremont's billed charges, it states that the "charge exceeds fee schedule/maximum allowable or contracted/legislated fee arrangement." UnitedHealthcare seemingly admits that there if there is not a contracted fee arrangement then it is bound by a legislated fee arrangement. Upon entry of a confidentiality agreement and protective order, Fremont will produce a sample Explanation of Benefits consistent with the foregoing.

Interrogatory No. 5:

Identify and describe the actions taken by Defendants that led to the creation of the implied-in-fact contract alleged by Fremont in the Complaint.

Answer to Interrogatory No. 5:

Objection. To the extent this Interrogatory calls for a legal conclusion, it is improper. Subject to and without waiving the foregoing objection, Fremont responds as follows: Fremont is a professional practice group of emergency medicine providers that staffs certain emergency department services in Clark County, Nevada, including the emergency departments at Sunrise Hospital; Mountain View Hospital; Southern Hills Hospital; Dignity Health, St. Rose Dominican

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Hospital - Rose De Lima Campus; St. Rose Dominican Hospital - Siena Campus; Dignity Health, St. Rose Dominican Hospital - San Martin Campus and ER at the Lakes. UnitedHealthcare and its defendant affiliates are health care insurance companies and/or administrators that provide coverage to their Members. Federal and state laws require Fremont to treat individuals who present for treatment in emergency departments that it staffs, regardless of that person's ability to pay. See e.g. Emergency Medical Treatment & Labor Act ("EMTALA"), 42 U.S.C. § 1395dd; NRS 439B.410. UnitedHealthcare has opted to provide and/or administer health insurance coverage to certain individuals enrolled in its health plans in Nevada. UnitedHealthcare is required legally and contractually to cover and pay for emergency department services provided to its Members. Because Fremont has already provided emergency medicine services to UnitedHealthcare's Members and UnitedHealthcare is obligated to pay for those services as a Nevada health insurer and managed care organization, it is implicit and expected that UnitedHealthcare will pay Fremont for the billed charges. UnitedHealthcare previously paid Fremont for emergency medicine services administered to UnitedHealthcare's Members on an out-of-network basis at rates acceptable to Fremont. However, that changed when UnitedHealthcare started paying lower reimbursement rates not reflective of the billed charges, or a usual and customary rate or for the reasonable value of the services provided. In the simplest of terms: Fremont is not obligated to provide emergency services to UnitedHealthcare Members at rates that are not usual and customary or reflective of the reasonable value of the emergency medicine services provided. For purposes of this litigation, Fremont seeks additional payment from UnitedHealthcare in connection with claims that UnitedHealthcare paid at a rate lower than 75% of billed charges.

Interrogatory No. 6:

Identify all individuals who are or have been involved in "business discussions regarding the potential for Fremont to become a participating provider" as referenced in paragraph 26 of the Complaint. The information should include each individual's full name, address, phone number and what entity they work for or are associated with (i.e. Fremont, Defendants, etc.).

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Kent Bristow, Senior Vice President, Revenue Management for TeamHealth Holdings, Inc., 265 Brookview Centre Way Ste. 400, Knoxville, Tennessee. Fremont is part of the TeamHealth organization. Mr. Bristow may only be contacted through Fremont's counsel of record.

Jennifer Shrader, Vice President of Managed Care Contracting for TeamHealth Holdings, Inc., 265 Brookview Centre Way Ste. 400, Knoxville, Tennessee. Ms. Shrader may only be contacted through Fremont's counsel of record.

Rena Harris, Senior Contracts Manager, for TeamHealth Holdings, Inc., 8511 Fallbrook Ave, Suite 120, West Hills, CA 91304. Ms. Harris was involved with negotiations with HPN, SHO and SHL on behalf of TeamHealth Holdings, Inc. Ms. Harris may only be contacted through Fremont's counsel of record.

Mark Kline was formerly employed by TeamHealth Holdings, Inc. as a Vice President, Managed Care. Mr. Kline's email address is: mgklinetexas@sbcglobal.net. Mr. Kline may only be contacted through Fremont's counsel of record.

Dan Schumacher, the President and Chief Operating Officer of UnitedHealthcare and part of the Office of the Chief Executive of UnitedHealth Group, Inc. Defendants have Mr. Schumacher's contact information.

Angie Nierman, a Vice President of Networks at UnitedHealth Group, Inc. Defendants have Ms. Nierman's contact information.

Dan Rosenthal, President of UnitedHealth Networks, Inc. Defendants have Mr. Rosenthal's contact information.

John Haben, Vice President of UnitedHealth Networks, Inc. Defendants have Mr. Haben's contact information.

Jacy Jefferson, Associate Director, Network Development & Contracts for Health Plan of Nevada/Sierra Health & Life, UnitedHealthcare – Nevada. Defendants have Mr. Jefferson's contact information.

Page 6 of 8

Greg Dosedel, Vice President of National Ancillary Contracting & Strategy at UnitedHealthcare Services, Inc. Defendants have Mr. Dosedel's contact information.

DATED this 29th day of July, 2019.

McDONALD CARANO LLP

By: /s/ Kristen T. Gallagher
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Attorneys for Plaintiff Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of McDonald Carano LLP, and that on this 29th day of July, 2019, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA), LTD.'S OBJECTIONS AND ANSWERS TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES to be served via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid upon the following:

D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq.
Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq.
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Attorneys for Defendants UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company, United HealthCare Services, Inc., UMR, Inc., Oxford Health Plans, Inc., Sierra Health and Life Insurance Co., Inc., Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc., and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc.

/s/ Karen Surowiec
An employee of McDonald Carano LLP

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I, Kent Bristow, have read FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA), LTD.'S ANSWERS TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES and I believe, based on reasonable inquiry, that the responses set forth therein are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

CASE NO: A-19-792978-B

DEPT. XXVII

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24 25 **DISTRICT COURT**

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA) LTD.,

Plaintiff(s),

UNITED HEALTHCARE

INSURANCE COMPANY,

Defendant(s).

BEFORE THE HONORABLE NANCY ALLF, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021

RECORDER'S PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS RE: MOTIONS

APPEARANCES (Attorneys appeared via Blue Jeans):

For the Plaintiff(s): PATRICIA K. LUNDVALL, ESQ.

KRISTEN T. GALLAGHER, ESQ.

AMANDA PERACH, ESQ.

For the Defendant(s): BRITTANY M. LLEWELLYN, ESQ.

NATASHA S. FEDDER, ESQ.

RECORDED BY: BRYNN WHITE, COURT RECORDER

TRANSCRIBED BY: KATHERINE MCNALLY, TRANSCRIBER

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1	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
2	[Proceeding commenced at 3:00 p.m.]
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4	THE COURT: Good afternoon, everyone. Calling the case
5	of Fremont versus United.
6	Appearances, please, starting first with the plaintiff.
7	MS. GALLAGHER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Kristen
8	Gallagher, on behalf of the plaintiff Health Care Providers.
9	MS. LUNDVALL: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Pat
10	Lundvall, also on behalf of the Health Care Providers.
11	THE COURT: Thank you, both.
12	MS. PERACH: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Amanda
13	Perach, also on behalf of the Health Care Providers.
14	THE COURT: Thank you.
15	And for the defendants, please.
16	MS. LLEWELLYN: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Brittany
17	Llewellyn, on behalf of the defendants.
18	MS. FEDDER: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Natasha
19	Fedder, on behalf of defendants.
20	THE COURT: Thank you, both. Does that exhaust the

appearances?

MS. GALLAGHER: From the plaintiffs, yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Does that exhaust for the defendants?

MS. Fedder: Also for defendants, yes.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you very much.

Then, Ms. Llewellyn, this was your Motion to Compel.

MS. FEDDER: Your Honor, this is Natasha Fedder for defendants. I'll be arguing the motion -- taking the lead on arguing the motion, if that's all right with you.

THE COURT: Of course. Certainly.

MS. FEDDER: Thank you, Your Honor. Thank you for your time this afternoon.

I'm going to cover three topics. I will first provide an overview of the case and the discovery we are seeking on this motion. I will then get into more specifics regarding the relevance of the discovery we seek. And finally I will touch on some of the case law the parties have cited in their papers.

As you know, Your Honor, there are 22,153 at-issue claims in this case. Plaintiffs have already received payment for these claims, but they say they are entitled to more. In particular, they say that a reasonable reimbursement rate is 75 to 90 percent of their bill charges.

Plaintiffs unilaterally set their bill charges. Defendants do not know how those charges are set, nor do they know whether those charges are reasonable, vis-a-vis what plaintiffs charge other payers, such as facilities and hospitals, or what Team Health itself reimburses for out-of-network emergency services. Defendants also do not know whether plaintiffs are entitled to receive compensation for the at-issue claims from facilities and hospitals they contract with.

To that end, Your Honor, defendants seek discovery regarding how plaintiffs' charges were set and whether they were set objectively and in good faith; whether and how Team Health and Team Health's own financial incentives influence plaintiff's bill charges; plaintiffs' contractual agreements with hospitals and facilities and the context surrounding those arrangements; and plaintiffs' costs of doing business for the disputed emergency services.

Plaintiffs have effectively admitted that Team Health is the decision maker regarding their unilaterally set bill charges. The only party witnesses plaintiffs have disclosed are current or former Team Health employees, in offices outside of Nevada; and a Team Health employee verified plaintiffs' interrogatory responses.

Without the discovery sought, defendants will be prejudiced when trying to depose party witnesses and defend themselves at trial.

Plaintiffs argue the defendants are not entitled to this discovery and attempt to shift the focus entirely to whether the amounts United allowed as reimbursement for the at-issue claims are reasonable. In so arguing, plaintiffs effectively ask defendants and the Court to accept that their billed charges were reasonable, but that is a determination for the Court and the finder of fact to make with the benefit of expert opinions, among other things.

Moreover, plaintiffs have put the reasonableness of their bill charges at issue. They have alleged that they were reimbursed

at rates below the billed charges and a reasonable payment for the services rendered, and they further alleged that reimbursement at a rate of 75 to 90 percent of their bill charges is reasonable.

Defendants have a right to discovery that allows them to test these allegations. Defendants have also put the reasonableness of plaintiffs' billed charges at issue through their defenses and affirmative defenses, including that plaintiffs' bill charges are excessive.

Defendants have further put at issue whether plaintiffs had other sources of compensation for the disputed claims, including their affirmative defenses that plaintiffs have already received all payments due and have failed to mitigate damages. Defendants are entitled to the discovery necessary to prove these defenses.

Getting into more of the specifics, Your Honor, the discovery defendants seek into plaintiffs' corporate structure and relationship with Team Health goes to how plaintiffs' billed charges are set, who sets them, and the basis for them. For example, there may be a Team Health committee that is tasked with setting the charges and directing affiliates as to what their charges must be, and corresponding plaintiff committees that are tasked with implementing the bill charges. Defendants are entitled to discovery reflecting such processes.

In addition to seeking discovery as to how plaintiffs' billed charges are set and by whom, defendants also seek to understand the basis for them. To that end, Team Health is a profit-driven entity.

It, therefore, has an incentive to inflate billed charges to drive up its profits, as opposed to basing them on, for example, the cost to plaintiffs of providing the underlying services.

Such incentives might be reflected in committee meeting minutes, corporate memoranda or e-mails. Discovery of such material is relevant to whether plaintiffs' billed charges are reasonable.

Furthermore, news articles document high-dollar figures associated with administrative services Team Health purportedly provides and management fees it charges. Whether such fees inflated plaintiffs' billed charges for the at-issue claims is relevant to whether the charges were reasonable.

To further gauge reasonableness, defendants seek discovery into plaintiffs' relationships with facilities and hospitals -- not only their contracts, but also presentations or other materials plaintiffs may have provided to the facilities that provide context around those contracts.

For example, plaintiffs may be willing to offer a hospital a sweetheart deal to be the hospital's exclusive provider and may inflate their billed charges for out-of-network services to compensate for that concession.

On the flip side, if plaintiffs are the only providers in a given region, such that they have an effective monopoly, they may use their bargaining power to negotiate higher rates.

Defendants need to understand that dynamic to be able to

make an apples-to-apples comparison between what plaintiffs accept from hospitals and facilities and what they are demanding here.

This discovery regarding relationships with facilities and hospitals also goes to defendants' affirmative defenses that plaintiffs have received payment for the at-issue claims and/or have failed to mitigate damages. If plaintiffs are entitled to compensation from other sources, i.e. facilities and hospitals for the disputed claims, then that is relevant to these defenses.

Also to gauge reasonableness, defendants seek discovery as to what Team Health itself reimburses, pursuant to its own out-of-network program offerings. If Team Health is the decision maker regarding plaintiffs' billed charges and Team Health also sponsors its own employee benefit plan, if Team Health is, itself, reimbursing at rates that are different from the ones plaintiffs seek here, that is relevant to whether plaintiffs' billed charges are reasonable.

Finally, defendants seek discovery into plaintiffs' costs of care as another check on whether the billed charges to which they claim entitlement are reasonable. If, for example, plaintiffs billed charges far exceed their actual costs, that is relevant to reasonableness.

Defendants -- or excuse me, Your Honor, plaintiffs have attempted to reframe defendant's discovery requests as seeking clinical records. However, the at-issue requests do not seek information related to whether plaintiffs actually performed the

underlying emergency services and/or coded them properly.

As I've described, they instead explore the basis for plaintiffs' billed charges and other sources of compensation.

Your Honor, turning finally to a brief discussion of the case law. Plaintiffs do not cite to any Nevada case law that forecloses the discovery we seek here, and we are not aware of any such case law.

Certified Fire, for example, articulates general unjust enrichment and *quantum meruit* principles. But the Court found that the plaintiff had not enriched the defendant to begin with, and thus had no occasion to address whether or not the plaintiffs' costs were relevant.

Other case law plaintiffs cite does not foreclose the discovery we seek either. For example, in certain cases, like the *Gulf-to-Bay* case, the defendants did not raise the same affirmative defenses, and the Court focused its analysis on a state statute that addresses compensation for out-of-network services. Moreover, the Court in *Florida Emergency Physicians* declined to follow *Gulf-to-Bay* and granted discovery into plaintiffs' cost of care that the defendant sought there.

Still other case law, in fact, supports defendants' position.

Children's Hospital, for example, states: A medical care providers' billed price for particular services is not necessarily representative of either the cost of providing those services or their market value.

Rather, the full billed charges reflect what the provider unilaterally says it's services are worth.

In a given case, the reasonable and customary amount that the healthcare service plan has a duty to pay might be the bill the medical provider submits or the amount the healthcare service plan chooses to pay or some amount in between.

For these reasons, Your Honor, and those set forth in our papers, defendants respectfully request that the Court grant their Motion to Compel in full.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Okay. So I've got a few questions.

So these are Nevada corporations. And so the -- the members of the board of directors and the list of officers is available online; right, through the Secretary of State?

MS. FEDDER: Your Honor, I don't know the answer to that question. It may be.

THE COURT: Okay. So why would you be entitled, though, to know who the shareholders are or what happens at the board meetings?

MS. FEDDER: Understood, Your Honor. I don't -- we're not seeking discovery generally into what happens at the board meetings or who the shareholders are. We are specifically seeking discovery into how plaintiffs' billed charges are set and the basis for them and who sets them.

THE COURT: All right. But one of the things you have asked for is basically the financial information that -- the profitability of the business and how that affects charges, how they're set.

MS. FEDDER: Yes, Your Honor. We've asked for that
information because we believe that as a profit-driven entity, Team
Health has an incentive to inflate the billed charges.

We also believe, based on news articles, that Team Health provides management and administrative services. It charges a fee for those services. And we believe that the billed charges may be inflated to reflect those fees.

And we've requested financial information for that reason to try to understand the relationship between the billed charges and the profitability.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. FEDDER: And whether --

THE COURT: Sorry. Go ahead.

MS. FEDDER: Excuse me. I'm sorry.

Oh, and whether profitability considerations are informing the basis for the billed charges, as opposed to other considerations that might inform them, such as the plaintiffs' actual cost of providing the care.

THE COURT: Okay. And everyone here is a for-profit entity; correct? All parties?

MS. FEDDER: Yes, Your Honor. That's correct.

THE COURT: Right. But some are public and some are private?

MS. FEDDER: Your Honor, I don't --

THE COURT: I assume that the --

MS. FEDDER: Oh, I'm sorry, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Is the defendant a public company?

MS. FEDDER: The parent -- the parent company.

THE COURT: Okay. All right.

MS. FEDDER: I believe --

THE COURT: [Indiscernible.] So I understand your argument that the costs have been inflated, but how -- why would you need the contracts between the plaintiff and the hospitals?

MS. FEDDER: The contracts from -- between the plaintiffs and the hospitals, Your Honor, go to a few issues.

First of all, they help us understand the rates that the plaintiffs are willing to accept from the hospitals and the facilities, and that helps us to evaluate whether the billed charges they are seeking here are reasonable.

But we've also asked for documentation, including presentations, that provide context around the contracts and the contractual arrangements that plaintiffs have with these facilities so that we can make an apples-to-apples comparison between the rates that they are willing to accept from those facilities and the billed charges that they are demanding here.

It's relevant, for example, I give an example of if they have an monopoly in a given area, that gives them bargaining power to negotiate a higher rate with a hospital. And so the comparison between that higher rate -- that -- the use of that higher rate as a check on reasonableness is informed by that monopoly

consideration.

Likewise, you know, they may be willing to offer hospitals lower rates to be the exclusive provider and then that may, in turn, impact the billed charges that they charge. They may inflate their billed charges to compensate for that concession that they've made.

Also the contracts are relevant to helping us understand whether they're entitled to other compensation, compensation from other sources for the claims that are at issue.

We've -- in our affirmative defenses, you know, we've stated that -- we've argued that -- or alleged -- excuse me -- that they've received payments on the disputed claims, and we've also alleged that they failed to mitigate damages. So we're trying to understand there are other sources of compensation for these claims, these at-issue claims, to be able to prove up those affirmative defenses.

THE COURT: Okay. And I assume you have an expert witness who is going to talk about why you believe the charges are excessive?

MS. FEDDER: Yes, Your Honor. And that -- yes, Your Honor. We do anticipate designating an expert. We expect that plaintiffs anticipate doing the same. And we would expect to provide the discovery that we're seeking to our expert to inform his or her opinions on that subject.

THE COURT: But I assume your expert will be talking about market?

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1	MS. FEDDER: Well, Your Honor
2	THE COURT: The market where the plaintiffs operate.
3	MS. FEDDER: Your Honor, I expect so. But we you
4	know, we have not designated an expert. And I can't say, sitting
5	here today, what exactly our expert would opine on.
6	THE COURT: Now, I I'm just you know, I just have a
7	series of questions, and it's not meant to put you on the spot
8	MS. FEDDER: No, absolutely, Your Honor.
9	THE COURT: but to understand and really dig into your
10	issue here.
11	All right. So okay. I you wanted information about
12	licensing and credentialing?
13	MS. FEDDER: Yes, Your Honor.
14	THE COURT: Can you explain that?
15	MS. FEDDER: Yes.
16	THE COURT: Somebody's typing. Please mute yourself if
17	you're typing.
18	Go ahead, please.
19	MS. FEDDER: I apologize, Your Honor. It was me. I was
20	just trying to get down your question.
21	Yes. Licensing and credentialing information is again
22	relevant to us being able to make an apples-to-apples comparison
23	between the rates that plaintiffs are accepting from hospitals and the
24	billed charges that are at issue here.
25	So, for example, if the and I'm just trying to I'm just

trying to navigate to that particular request to look at it to be able to respond to your question.

THE COURT: Sure.

MS. FEDDER: So the licensing and credentialing is relevant to providing context for the contracts, to helping us understand considerations that have informed the rate that the plaintiffs are going to accept from the hospital or facility.

So, for example, if the contract requires that the providers performing the services have certain licensure or certain credentials, that may allow plaintiffs to negotiate higher rates for those contracts.

So we want to understand those considerations when we're making a comparison, for example, a market comparison like the one that you've suggested between those rates and the billed charges that plaintiffs are seeking here.

THE COURT: Okay. And you've received the charges from the plaintiffs. Why would it matter if they get reimbursed elsewhere? Why would that matter? Because their relationship with you is what is at issue here.

MS. FEDDER: I understand that, Your Honor. And that's certainly true. But we would look to other sources to try to gauge the reasonableness of the billed charges that are at issue here. We have insight into what -- the billed charges that plaintiffs have submitted and the reimbursement rates that we have paid, but we don't have insight into what plaintiffs are doing in the rest of the market.

Plaintiffs, themselves, have characterized this as a fair value or a fair market value -- it's a case about fair value or fair market value. And surely their activity in the rest of the market is relevant to the reasonableness question.

THE COURT: And what --

MS. FEDDER: And, Your Honor, I'm sorry, if I may, I just wanted to revisit one of your points that I didn't have a firm answer to.

The Unitedhealth Group, Incorporated, parent is publicly traded, but the other defendants are not publicly traded.

THE COURT: Thank you.

MS. FEDDER: I apologize I didn't have that information, earlier.

THE COURT: No, no, no. Thank you.

Okay. Are rates not tied to Medicare? [Indiscernible] rates or -- because I understand -- I understand the difference between wholesale and retail medicine. You know, I've practiced a long time. But what I don't know is what the standard or the norm is if rates vary in a community.

MS. FEDDER: Right. Understood, Your Honor. You know, we would say that Medicare is certainly a relevant benchmark in determining what is reasonable. I think the best answer I can offer in response to your question is that the healthcare market is a complicated one, and it presents complex fair value issues.

You know, I think something we see from the case law is

that the concept of fair value in the healthcare context is unsettled in Nevada. And we may -- the Court and the finder of fact may look to other jurisdictions and see what they have to say about fair value or may look to federal law.

But given these complexities, this is why, as you alluded to, we anticipate that the parties would retain experts, and the experts would offer opinions to help the Court and the fact-finder determine what is fair value.

And our position is that you -- it's not a one-sided inquiry. It's not only about what we, the defendants, allowed as reimbursement. It's also about the billed charges -- sort of the other side of the equation, if you will. How are they set and what is the basis for them? Are they reasonable?

THE COURT: Is the setting of the charges reasonable? Or does the market determine the setting of charges?

MS. FEDDER: Well, the -- Your Honor, if I'm understanding your question, it's really what is the basis informing the setting of the charges? And we don't know. We don't know what that basis is. That is what we are seeking with this discovery. We're seeking to understand how these charges are set, what the considerations are that inform them, and who sets them.

You know, perhaps, the market informs that decision. I just -- I don't -- without the benefit of discovery into the process, I don't know the answer of how their charges are set.

THE COURT: And then my last question is -- and I know

I'm putting you on the spot.

MS. FEDDER: That's okay.

THE COURT: I've gone -- I'm working from home, I have more time. I've spent hours on this.

My last question is, if we get into the profitability on how they set their charges, do we have to look at the profitability of the defendant and how they reimburse?

MS. FEDDER: Understood, Your Honor. And that's a fair question.

You know, I think that our -- the focus on the inquiry -- the focus on the defendant is on our out-of-network programs. And the considerations -- or the -- excuse me -- let me take a step back.

The focus of plaintiffs' discovery, with respect to defendants, is on our out-of-network programs. And they are, you know, what inform -- one of the main considerations informing our out-of-network programs is a need to react to inflated billed charges. And I think that the discovery reflects that we have taken steps to do that.

I can't say that our profitability would be relevant to that issue, so I don't think you would need to explore defendants' profitability.

But I -- and I would also say we are -- our requests are limited to the billed charges, understanding the connection between the billed charges and plaintiffs' profitability, and what profitability considerations might have informed the setting of the billed charges.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Fedder.

The opposition, please.

MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you, Your Honor. This is Kristen Gallagher, on behalf of the plaintiff Health Care Providers.

So I think I'll start my presentation just with in response to a couple of the issues that were raised in the dialogue, just because they're fresh on everybody's mind.

So United already has information about how the Health Care Providers have set their charges. They asked a number of discovery requests, and we responded with respect to what is called our charge master. We've also responded to interrogatories that it's based, in part, on fair health, which Your Honor is probably familiar with through our pleadings, was set up after United had an issue back in 2009 with how they were setting reimbursement rates.

And so that information is already within United's wherewithal. They have that information in spreadsheet form information.

And I think a lot of the questions that you are asking Your Honor, of United is similar to what we were opposing with respect to why this supposed cost position is just not relevant to this case. In fact, a few of these discussions I felt like maybe I was in a different case for a minute, because they just don't have any connection with the first amended complaint and the claims that are at issue here.

You know, as United has indicated, they've gotten three

categories: The corporate structure -- they want to know a lot about the corporate relationship. They want to know about costs of doing business. And when they talk about that, they also sort of talk about the hospital and the facility contracts.

I sort of see all of these categories, even though their delineated separately, as sort of singularly relating to costs.

But Your Honor has already had occasion in this case, we've come before you with respect to the clinical records that, you know, this case is about United's reimbursement. That's what we're here to litigate. The value of those services and the reimbursement rates is a market value determination.

And Your Honor is correct, I would anticipate that United is going to have an expert that talks about whether or not our charges are reasonable in the marketplace, just as I would expect we're going to say that their charges in the marketplace aren't reasonable.

And so the corollary to that, their defenses then, have to necessarily be tied to this case. And they can't be something that is disconnected, which is the cost-based argument that they're making.

And so these categories, you know, they don't have an argument under Nevada law. And I know that they sort of have indicated that other cases, other places have allowed cost-based considerations.

But, you know, Your Honor, we were able to provide you at least one case that -- or actually two cases that the providers that

are under the Team Health umbrella have had occasion to have to respond to this type of inquiry. And those judges have indicated, under almost identical arguments that United has made here, that things like corporate structures are not relevant. Whether or not somebody is going to have a profit based on a particular charge is not going to be relevant unless there was something specific to the claims at issue in that case.

And what we have here are -- you know, we have a breach of implied in fact contract. We know that the measure of damages with respect to that is *quantum meruit*, which is going to fill in that -- that price feature, and that is going to be market value.

We have another claim that is unjust enrichment, and that damage model is going to be restitution.

And so we know this from, not only just our claims, but Your Honor has the benefit of our calculation of damages in our Joint Case Conference Report.

And so we're very clear about how we anticipate these damage modelings to go. And that's what is consistent with our allegations and that's what's consistent with what United's defenses would be.

And so I don't want to necessarily read from our Joint
Case Conference Report because it is on file with the Court back in
July, but we do say that it is with respect to expert testimony that we
will identify the reasonable value or the usual and customary rate for
these emergency services in the marketplace. That's with respect to

some of our damages.

We've got other damages that are going to be a little bit different with respect to Nevada RICO. But again, they don't relate or necessarily rely on cost information.

And so I think it's important to talk about the case structure in Nevada and what's going to sort of -- you know, from a high level view what is guiding us; right, because that's essentially what we're doing.

THE COURT: And this -- that's going to be my question.

And I know that I could intrude on your work product here, but I need just an idea of how you're going to put on the case because the defendant has to be able to cross-examine the witnesses.

MS. GALLAGHER: And I understand.

THE COURT: And you know, and that's where you're going, I think.

MS. GALLAGHER: It is. And I think that we've been very forthcoming with that, Your Honor, in our calculations of damages. We have not put costs, like a cost-plus situation at issue. What we have said -- and I'll go back to our Joint Case Conference Report, and this is reflected in our calculation of damages that runs in each of our initial disclosures -- is that it's going to be the difference between the lesser of the amounts charged for the emergency medicine services and the reasonable value or usual and customary rates for its professional emergency services and the amount defendants unilaterally allowed as payable.

So -- and then there's some additional aspects to that. I want to make sure I don't cut off what some of the additional categories -- but loss of use of the funds that we didn't have because United retained them, and some other damages under the Deceptive Trade Practices and RICO as well.

But so the consideration for this is exactly what

Your Honor has had occasion to consider before, which is what's the
reasonable value of this rate in the marketplace? And it is the
marketplace. It's not how the Health Care Providers set the billed
charges.

And I do want to make reference to paragraph 55 of our first amended complaint, because I think when United opened -- or 54, rather -- when United opened its presentation, there was some discussion that it made it seem like we are saying our billed charges -- you have to take them at face value in determining whether or not the charge -- you know, what should be paid in this case. And that's not exactly what the allegations are, Your Honor.

The allegations are that there was a range that we were reasonably seeing, and that was the range that was consistent with what our expectations in the marketplace.

And so what changed is now we had that sort of mark or a guidepost about what was reasonable in the marketplace, and it dramatically changed.

And so from our position, our claim is what changed, you know, our allegation obviously is that they were unilaterally resetting

them at a rate that they desired or they wished. But it doesn't have any bearing on our -- what goes into our billed charge.

We have already indicated, in response to the discovery requests, what it is. And if United challenges it, what the challenge is is what's happening in the marketplace, whether or not that's a reasonable rate compared to other emergency service out-of-network providers in this market.

And you know, United has that information. Obviously it has the ability to crunch the numbers with respect to other emergency room providers. It doesn't need that information in terms of costs, because this isn't a construction type of case; right?

You might expect if we were setting here fighting about what's the rate of damages or what's the calculation of damages in a construction case, it might very well be a cost-plus situation.

But what we have provided to the Court in terms of the *Gulf-to-Bay* case and there's the California case that is NorthBay -- another bay case -- NorthBay health providers, the Courts have said that, you know, market is reasonable services. If you get into a cost situation, you're changing the nature of this case. It doesn't inform the reasonable reimbursement that the Health Care Providers have alleged that they have not gotten. And so we know that costs are not relevant to the case.

And it sort of seems like United has tried to take, you know, pieces from the first amended complaint, pieces from other areas, and tried to cobble together a basis for this cost analysis.

But, you know, when I'm hearing discussions about hospitals, and they need to know what kind of rates we have so they can make an apples-to-apples comparison, I just don't see those -- those are not apples to apples. A hospital situation and a contract perhaps to be able to provide services does not inform whether or not United has made a reasonable reimbursement in any regard. It would never move to inform, you know, the good or the bad about the plaintiffs' claims or the good or the bad about defendants' responses with respect to cost.

So I think it's important to know that we're not, you know, similar to NorthBay, I think -- which that case said there was no intention on submitting costs in support of any charges.

And so we've been plain in our calculation of damages disclosure, so there's no, you know, hiding of the ball. There's going to be nothing -- if something changes, obviously, that we would make a supplement and we would have that discussion with United. But in terms of what we have put forward in the modeling of damages, that's what it is.

And the one thing that I do want to point out, because in the reply United makes points to Section 49 of the restatements of restitution as saying that costs may be allowed. You know, and I think that we have to remember that, you know, those are very general discussions about what are the different models of damages that a plaintiff may be able to put forward? And sure, is cost one of them? Perhaps. But that is -- would be a plaintiff putting that at

issue.

And we see that in some of the underlying cases that
United refers to, like out of Florida. There's a main case that is called
Colomar. In that case, if you look deep into the basis for why costs
were -- mattered in that case is because the plaintiffs put it at issue.
And so I think that's the theme that we just don't have here and that
can't sort of be carried over into this case because it doesn't matter.

But I think the important part about Section 49 that I wanted to take a moment to distinguish is that it talks about, you know, market value and that sort of thing. But only pricing -- I'm sorry -- only costs are going to be important if there is an issue, and then it triggers a qualifier in Section 50.

And so Section 50 talks about -- I'm sorry -- Section 50 talks about an innocent recipient of an unjust enrichment situation, which we definitely, by our allegations, don't have here.

So what would apply would be Section 51 which talks about enrichment by misconduct -- I mean, obviously alleged misconduct. But it's important because it says the value for restitution purposes is not less than their market value.

And so I think when you couple, you know, looking at the totality of what we have in Nevada, which is certified buyer -- which does look to the restatements of restitution for certain pieces of it which is going to be the unjust enrichment -- is that when we drill down, we're back to market value. And so that is what we've alleged. That's our damage model that we've disclosed.

And so this cost analysis, we think is -- you know, just another way to expand this case to something it's not, especially when it -- with regard to the corporate structure.

I think Your Honor asked a very pointed question about, you know, what is this necessarily going to provide you? And Your Honor has many companies, big companies that come before you. And you know, they're not automatically having to provide financials and corporate structure and information about how they're setting, you know, their room rates when they go after somebody for not paying, you know, their room rate.

So we just think that we're sort of down this -- this line that doesn't match up to what this case is about, and so -- and then if you look specifically at the requests that they're asking for, it's sort of -- you know, they're glossing over corporateness.

But when you get down to it, they're looking at every last detail of the financial structures. And you know, we just think that in order -- you know, to allow them to probe is basically they're just trying to find out the financial wherewithal of the Team Health umbrella entities and perhaps even Team Health itself that just isn't related.

You know, whether or not somebody jacked -- you know, allegedly jacked up a billed charge just doesn't have a connection, just doesn't have -- I mean, you would have this kind of discovery in literally every case that came before Your Honor in the business court context.

So we think that the corporate relationship documents, the financials, just don't have anything that would inform what we actually have at issue here.

I'm happy to go through each of the different categories, because I think it's important and not to gross over them. But I also know that Your Honor has spent some time --

THE COURT: Can I just interrupt -- can I just interrupt for a second?

MS. GALLAGHER: Of course.

THE COURT: Has there been discovery in coding for the bills?

You guys know more about your case than I do. I don't know what the -- all the discovery shows.

MS. GALLAGHER: Right. There -- there is that. We are disputing any requests for coding-related matters, because that has to do with clinical records.

THE COURT: I understand.

MS. GALLAGHER: You know, so the -- yeah. So the concern about the credentialing and the monopoly -- one case I want to point out that was raised in the reply is the *Eagle* case where they talked about where it mattered because -- if there wasn't a monopoly in that case. And it wasn't just enough to look at the market value.

But that case, that parenthetical provider to the Court, doesn't explain the full breadth of what was really at issue there. That was truly a monopoly. There was one neurosurgeon or

neuroprofessional in that market. And so in that context, you couldn't only take the reasonable market value, because it was only those charges.

Certainly, we don't have that situation here. United is well versed in who are the emergency department providers in this market. Fremont is. And the Health Care Providers are -- do not hold a monopoly. They haven't proffered any evidence to this Court to suggest otherwise.

So to use a case that truly was a monopolistic situation in further evidence or if further support of a claim that -- or an argument that somehow if we had a monopoly it might mean something.

But at the end of the day, what's going to happen is that the experts are going to look at what are -- what's being billed in this market and what's being paid in this market. And then, you know, somewhere in there is going to be an outcome that, you know, we think United is -- is not reimbursing based on market rates or what should be market rates for this type of arrangement, which is out-of-network in a commercial payer situation.

And so we think this is just another way to expand this case, to bring in completely irrelevant information that's not going to inform our claims. And certainly, you know, they try to transform our allegations in an attempt to do so.

And we would just ask Your Honor that you deny the requests in full. And specifically, you know, each and every one that

just goes well beyond the bounds of what they're even saying that it stands for with respect to cost because the reasonable value of services is going to be a market determination, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

And the reply, please, Ms. Fedder.

MS. FEDDER: Thank you, Your Honor. The Court has been very patient with us this afternoon, so I'll just make a few points in response to Ms. Gallagher's presentation.

The first is that this inquiry and this case is not only about plaintiffs' claims. It's also about defendants' affirmative defenses.

With respect to plaintiffs' claims, they do certainly allege in paragraph 54 of their amended complaint that a reasonable reimbursement rate is 75 to 90 percent of billed charges. And as I stated in my opening presentation, it's our position that in that, in other ways, they put the reasonableness of their billed charges at issue.

But even if that weren't the case, our affirmative defenses put the reasonableness of their billed charges at issue.

We've alleged among other things that their charges are excessive. The Court -- Ms. Gallagher alluded to two cases coming out in a Team Health affiliated plaintiff -- Team Health affiliated plaintiff providers' favor. One of those cases is the *Gulf-to-Bay* case and the *Florida Emergency* case that I alluded to in my opening presentation declined to follow that case. And in that case, and in the *Florida Emergency Physician's* case, the Court expressly stated

that it was, you know -- it was not precluded from compelling cost-of-care discovery.

And I think that's one of the key points that we're making here is none of this authority that has been offered precludes the Court from ordering the -- from compelling the discovery that we have sought here. Moreover, none of this case law defines definitively what market value means. It's a facts-and-circumstances specific consideration, which is why that we need to involve experts to help -- to assist the court and the finder of fact in determining what is market value.

And plaintiffs are seeking to cut off our ability to seek discovery into areas that we think are relevant and that we want to provide to our expert to use, to inform his or her opinions.

If you'll bear with me, Your Honor, I took some notes, and I have a few points -- a few other points that I wanted to make.

With respect to -- Ms. Gallagher referenced some of plaintiffs' interrogatory responses, you know, plaintiffs have provided some information about their billed charges. It's not clear that that is all of the information that we would need to understand how those billed charges are set and whether they're reasonable.

And I think in many of these arguments, plaintiffs are effectively asking us and the Court to kind of take our -- take their word for it -- take their word for the fact that these -- that this discovery we're seeking isn't relevant. And I don't think that's appropriate.

We have the right to test plaintiffs' claims, and we also have the right to seek the discovery that is necessary to prove our affirmative defenses.

And to your point, we have the right to effectively cross-examine plaintiff's witnesses at trial, all of whom I -- or most of whom I would guess would be Team Health current or former employees, based on their witness disclosures.

In addition, Your Honor, the portions of the case law that plaintiffs cite and have spoken about are largely limited to the unjust enrichment and *quantum meruit* context.

We disagree, as I said in my opening, with their position that our discovery is irrelevant in those contexts. But they haven't explained why the discovery we are seeking is irrelevant to the rest of their claims. And the case law doesn't demonstrate irrelevance.

You know, finally, Your Honor, the case law establishes a pattern by Team Health affiliated entities in resisting the type of discovery that we seek here. At least one court, the *Florida Emergency* court has found it to be relevant. And we think that that and other cases we've cited to you where courts have allowed the kind of discovery we're seeking are the more persuasive authorities.

The Oklahoma -- the Oklahoma case that plaintiffs cited, for example, is, you know, it -- it's -- it focuses on an Oklahoma statute that doesn't apply here. And with all due respected to that Court, it's a two-page opinion that doesn't offer us much insight into the Court's reasoning or analysis.

You know, by contrast, the *Florida Emergency* court walks through in detail its reasoning in ordering discovery into costs. And so we think that is the more persuasive authority, especially here, where both sides are equally entitled to discovery to level the playing field.

Your Honor, if there are any additional questions I could address for you, I welcome them.

THE COURT: No. You were so well spoken, and I got all my questions answered. So thank you.

MS. FEDDER: Thank you.

THE COURT: You know, this is really what it comes down to is it's a rate of pay case and it's not a cost case, and the plaintiff very carefully re-pled in that first amended complaint.

So I just don't see where the corporate structure, the finances, even how the charges are determined is going to be relevant in this case. You know, there -- you -- this does not preclude the defendant from arguing that the charges are excessive -- if the charges changed; if they didn't; if the reimbursement rates changed -- it doesn't prevent you from defending the case by denying this motion.

And I really -- I've worked long and hard on it because I want to make sure that the defendant has the ability to defend. But unfortunately, you know, both companies are for-profit entities.

The financial information that the defendant would want with regard to the plaintiffs' operations to prove the charges are

excessive, the monopoly issue -- it just isn't relevant. It's not going to lead to the discovery of relevant information.

So for those reasons, you know, the corporate structure -- I asked all the questions with regard to the thing -- my notes. The only thing you guys didn't address that was in the papers was to -- to strike the boilerplate objections. At this point I'm not going to do that only because they are rooted in law, but I am going to deny the motion, Ms. Fedder.

So I'll task Ms. Gallagher with preparing an order. I don't accept competing orders. I've had so many lately. And we're working remotely as much as we can, so I'm bogging down. So I won't accept a competing order. I'll return it.

But certainly if you have objections, I will objectively look at those objections. And if I have to, we even go back and listen to the arguments on the JAVS system.

So Ms. Gallagher will prepare the order. Ms. Fedder and Ms. Llewellyn will approve the form of that.

Any other questions, any clarifications, questions that either party has?

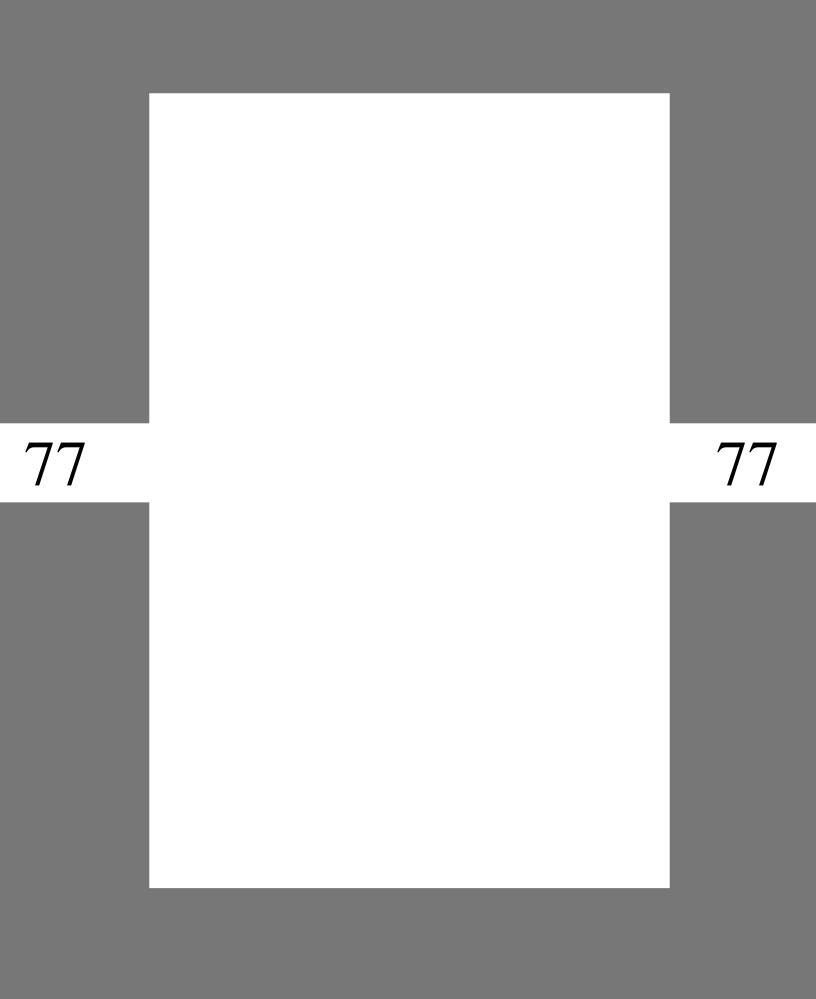
MS. GALLAGHER: No, Your Honor. Thank you.

THE COURT: Ms. Fedder or Ms. Llewellyn, anything further?

MS. FEDDER: I don't think I have anything further.

I think the only point I would raise and not to -- I respect the Court's decision.

1	THE COURT: Okay.			
2	MS. FEDDER: Certainly the plaintiffs are for-profit entities.			
3	I don't know the answer about whether they are publicly			
4	traded. I just wanted to make sure that's clear. I don't want to speak			
5	for plaintiffs. I don't I can't speak to what their corporate structure			
6	is.			
7	THE COURT: Good enough.			
8	Okay. Well, then, everyone stay safe and healthy until I			
9	see you next.			
10	MS. GALLAGHER: Thank you, Your Honor.			
11	MR. ROBERTS: Thank you.			
12	MS. FEDDER: Thank you.			
13	[Proceeding concluded at 3:50 p.m.]			
14	* * * * *			
15				
16				
17	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly			
18	transcribed the audio/video proceedings in the above-entitled case			
19	to the best of my ability.			
20	Katherine McMally			
21	Katherine McNally			
22	Independent Transcriber CERT**D-323			
23	AZ-Accurate Transcription Service, LLC			



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DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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

Plaintiffs,

VS.

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP, INC., a Delaware **HEALTHCARE** corporation; UNITED **INSURANCE** COMPANY. Connecticut a UNITED **HEALTH** corporation; 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 **SIERRA HEALTH-CARE** corporation; OPTIONS, INC., a Nevada corporation; HEALTH OF NEVADA, INC., Nevada corporation; DOES 1-10; ROE ENTITIES 11-20,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-19-792978-B

Dept. No.: 27

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MASTER

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Notice of Entry of Order Granting Defendants' Motion for Appointment of Special Master was filed February 2, 2021, in the above-captioned matter. A copy is attached hereto.

Dated this 2nd day of February, 2021.

/s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 2nd day of February, 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MASTER 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**

ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 2/2/2021 2:08 PM

Electronically File 003696 02/02/2021 2:08 PM CLERK OF THE COURT

WEINBERG WHEELER HUDGINS GUNN & DIAL

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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,

Case No.: A-19-792978-B

Dept. No.: 27

Plaintiffs,

VS.

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UNITEDHEALTH GROUP, INC., 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,

27 Defendar

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL MASTER

Defendants.

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Defendants UnitedHealth Group, Inc.; UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company; United HealthCare Services, Inc.; UMR, Inc.; Oxford Health Plans LLC, (incorrectly named as Oxford Health Plans, Inc.); Sierra Health and Life Insurance Co., Inc.; Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc.; and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc.'s (collectively, "United") Motion for Appointment of Special Master (the "Motion") came before the Court on December 30, 2020, and thereafter for a Status Check on January 13, 2021, for the appointment of a discovery master following the submission of candidates to the Court. D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Colby L. Balkenbush, and Brittany M. Llewellyn of Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC appeared on behalf of United. Pat Lundvall, Kristen T. Gallagher, and Amanda M. Perach of McDonald Carano LLP, appeared on behalf of Plaintiffs Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd. ("Fremont"); Team Physicians of Nevada-Mandavia, P.C. ("Team Physicians"); Crum, Stefanko and Jones, Ltd. dba Ruby Crest Emergency Medicine ("Ruby Crest") (collectively the "Health Care Providers").

The Court, having considered United's Motion and Reply, the Plaintiffs' Response, the authority provided in NRCP 53, the parties' separate submissions of candidates for special master, and the argument of counsel at the hearing on this matter, and good cause appearing, finds and orders as follows:

FINDINGS

- 1. The Court finds that, due to ongoing discovery disputes, the appointment of a special discovery master, pursuant to NRCP 53, is appropriate.
- 2. The Court finds that retired Judge David T. Wall has a background befitting service as Special Master in this litigation.
- 3. The Court finds that the Special Master's duties are to be defined by this Order, pursuant to NRCP 53, and by the scope set forth by the Court during the December 30, 2020 hearing as well as may be appropriate from time to time.

Accordingly,

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that United's Motion is **GRANTED**, and that the Honorable David T. Wall is appointed to serve as Special Master in this action.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within seven (7) days following the entry of this Order, the Special Master will set a time and place for a first meeting with counsel for the parties, whether in person, telephonic, or by videoconferencing means.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Honorable David T. Wall shall be authorized to handle the following specific areas of potential discovery disputes:

- (a) Motions to compel;
- (b) Number of depositions;
- (c) Confidential designations made under the June 24, 2020 Stipulated Confidentiality and Protective Order;
- (d) Written discovery issues; and
- (e) On other areas of dispute that may be agreed to by the parties and approved by the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Special Master will not have the authority to make any rulings as to whether either party is compliant with any existing order of the Court, and will not be permitted to alter discovery deadlines or continue any jury trial setting.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Special Master shall be authorized and empowered to: (a) review all pleadings, papers, and documents filed with the Court and/or served on counsel concerning the action and/or the specific motion(s) involved; (b) set the date, time, and place of any in-person hearing within Clark County, Nevada or by teleconference or videoconference on a discovery issue before him; and (c) make recommendations concerning discovery-related motions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, within seven (7) days of issuing a decision, the Special Master shall prepare a Report and Recommendation for the Court's review. Pursuant to NRCP 53(f)(1), if a party disagrees with a decision of the Special Master, a party may object to a recommendation of the Special Master through the procedures set forth in NRCP 53(f).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Special Master will not preserve any materials, except by the express, written request of the parties or the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Court shall have access to the Special Master and

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the Special Master shall have access to the Court to confer on issues related to this litigation. The Court will then issue a minute order disclosing the contact. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to NRCP 53(g), United will bear 75% of the costs for services performed by the Special Master and Plaintiffs will bear 25%, subject to review and reallocation at a later time. Dated this 2nd day of February, 2021 IT IS SO ORDERED. February 2, 2021 NB DFB BCE 9CAD 5CBA Submitted by: Approved to form/content: **District Court Judge** WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, **GUNN & DIAL, LLC** McDONALD CARANO LLP

/s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq. Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq. Brittany M. Llewellyn, Esq. 6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 lroberts@wwhgd.com cbalkenbush@wwhgd.com bllewellyn@wwhgd.com

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Bowman, Cindy S.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2021 10:46 AM

To: Llewellyn, Brittany M.; Kristen T. Gallagher; Pat Lundvall

Cc: 'Fedder, Natasha S.'; Balkenbush, Colby; Roberts, Lee; 'Genovese, Amanda L.'; 'Portnoi,

Dimitri D.'; Bowman, Cindy S.

Subject: RE: Fremont Emergency Services v. UnitedHealth Group, et al. - Order on Motion to

Appoint Special Master

This Message originated outside your organization.

You may affix my e-signature.

Thank you,

Amanda M. Perach Partner

McDONALD CARANO

P: 702.873.4100 E: aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com

From: Llewellyn, Brittany M. < BLlewellyn@wwhgd.com >

Sent: Tuesday, February 2, 2021 10:41 AM

To: Amanda Perach aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com; Kristen T. Gallagher kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com; Pat

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Cc: 'Fedder, Natasha S.' < nfedder@omm.com >; Balkenbush, Colby < CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com >; Roberts, Lee

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Bowman, Cindy S. < CBowman@wwhgd.com>

Subject: Fremont Emergency Services v. UnitedHealth Group, et al. - Order on Motion to Appoint Special Master

Good Morning,

I have attached a final version of the Order on United's Motion to Appoint a Special Master. Please confirm we may affix your e-signature.

Thank you,

Brittany



LITIGATION DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR ALM'S DAILY REPORT
2020 - 2019 - 2018 - 2017 - 2016 - 2014

Brittany M. Llewellyn, Attorney

Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial
6385 South Rainbow Blvd. | Suite 400 | Las Vegas, NV

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia) Ltd, Plaintiff(s)

VS.

United Healthcare Insurance Company, Defendant(s)

CASE NO: A-19-792978-B

DEPT. NO. Department 27

AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Order Granting Motion was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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 LIFÉ 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.: XXVII

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST AND SECOND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order Denying Defendants' Moton to Compel Responses to Defendants' First and Second Requests for Production on Order Shortening Time was entered on February 4, 2021, a copy of which is attached hereto.

DATED this 4th day of February, 2021.

McDONALD CARANO LLP

By: /s/ Kristen T. Gallagher Pat Lundvall (NSBN 3761) Kristen T. Gallagher (NSBN 9561) Amanda M. Perach (NSBN 12399) 2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of McDonald Carano LLP, and that on this 4th day of February, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST AND SECOND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME to be served via this Court's Electronic Filing system in the above-captioned case, upon the following:

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Natasha S. Fedder O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP 400 South Hope Street, 18th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071-2899 nfedder@omm.com

Attorneys for Defendants

/s/ Marianne Carter
An employee of McDonald Carano LLP

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CLERK OF THE COURT

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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

19 | SERVICES INC., dba

UNITEDHEALTHCARE, a Minnesota

20 corporation; UMR, INC., dba UNITED MEDICAL RESOURCES, a Delaware

21 corporation; OXFORD HEALTH PLANS,

INC., a Delaware corporation; SIERRA 22 HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE

COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation;

23 SIERRA HEALTH-CARE OPTIONS, INC., a Nevada corporation; HEALTH PLAN OF

24 NEVADA, INC., a Nevada corporation; DOES 1-10; ROE ENTITIES 11-20,

Defendants.

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This matter came before the Court on January 21, 2021 on defendants UnitedHealth Group, Inc.; UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company; United HealthCare Services, Inc.; UMR,

Case No.: A-19-792978-B

Dept. No.: XXVII

ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS'
MOTION TO COMPEL RESPONSES TO
DEFENDANTS' FIRST AND SECOND
REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION ON
ORDER SHORTENING TIME

Hearing Date: January 21, 2021

Hearing Time: 3:00 p.m.

Inc.; Oxford Health Plans, Inc.¹; Sierra Health and Life Insurance Co., Inc.; Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc.; and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc.'s (collectively, "United") Motion to Compel Responses To Defendants' First And Second Requests For Production On Order Shortening Time (the "Motion"). Pat Lundvall, Kristen T. Gallagher and Amanda M. Perach, McDonald Carano LLP, appeared on behalf of Plaintiffs Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd. ("Fremont"); Team Physicians of Nevada-Mandavia, P.C. ("Team Physicians"); Crum, Stefanko and Jones, Ltd. dba Ruby Crest Emergency Medicine ("Ruby Crest" and collectively the "Health Care Providers"). Brittany M. Llewellyn, Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC, and Natasha S. Fedder, O'Melveny & Myers LLP, appeared on behalf of United.

The Court, having considered United's Motion and reply, the Health Care Providers' opposition, and the argument of counsel at the hearing on this matter and good cause appearing therefor, makes the following findings of fact, conclusions of law and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. The Health Care Providers' First Amended Complaint alleges that this case does not involve the "right to payment" and, in connection with the breach of implied contract and related claims, the Health Care Providers challenge United's reimbursement rates, making this a "rate-of-payment" case. This case is not a cost case.
- 2. On June 28, 2019, United served its First Set of Requests for Production of Documents on Fremont.
 - 3. Fremont timely served its responses and objections on July 29, 2019.
- 4. On August 12, 2020, United served its Second Set of Requests for Production of Documents on the Health Care Providers
- 5. The Health Care Providers timely served their responses and objections on September 28, 2020.
- 6. On December 11, 2020, the parties engaged in a meet and confer that included the Health Care Providers' responses to the RFPs that are the subject of the Motion.

¹ Defendants contend Oxford Health Plans, Inc. is improperly named and should be Oxford Health Plans, LLC

- 7. On January 11, 2021, United moved to compel production of documents it described as follows:
 - a. Corporate structure/relationship documents:
 - i. Structure: RFP Nos. 61, 69, 132;
 - ii. Relationship: RFP Nos. 95, 108, 133, 134, 142, 143, 144, 145
 - b. Cost-related documents:
 - i. RFP Nos. 68, 86, 92, 93, and 94
 - c. Hospital/Facility contracts and credentials:
 - i. RFP Nos. 126, 137 and 146
- 8. Any of the foregoing factual statements that are more properly considered conclusions of law should be deemed so. Any of the following conclusions of law that are more properly considered factual statements should be deemed so.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 9. Parties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claims or defenses and proportional to the needs of the case, considering the importance of the issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy, the parties' relative access to relevant information, the parties' resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit. NRCP 26(b)(1).
- 10. The Court concludes that the relevant inquiry in this action is the proper rate of reimbursement.
- 11. The Court concludes that corporate structure, finances, and how the Health Care Providers' charges are determined are not relevant in this case. Further, financial information that United seeks with regard to the Health Care Providers' business and operations to purportedly establish the Health Care Providers' charges are excessive, as well as and United's monopoly argument, are not relevant to the claims or defenses in this case. None of the information sought by United in the Motion will lead to the discovery of relevant information.

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Submitted by:

12. The Court further considered United's arguments in the Motion and supporting			
reply, as well as its oral presentation, and concludes that the documents and information sough			
by United is not relevant and therefore not discoverable.			
13. The Court concludes that the Health Care Providers' objections are rooted in la			
and will not strike them.			
Accordingly, good cause appearing, therefor,			
<u>ORDER</u>			

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Motion to Compel Responses To Defendants' First And Second Requests For Production On Order Shortening Time is DENIED it its entirety. February 4, 2021

Dated this 4th day of February, 2021

4B8 415 1353 BAA3 Nancy Allf District Court Judge

Approved as to form only:

WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC

/s/ Kristen T. Gallagher
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Attorneys for Defendants

Marianne Carter

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Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 2:08 PM

To: Kristen T. Gallagher; Fedder, Natasha S.; Balkenbush, Colby; Roberts, Lee

Cc: Pat Lundvall; Amanda Perach

Subject: RE: Fremont Emergency Services v. UnitedHealth Group, et al. - order denying United's motion to

compel

You may affix my e-signature. Thank you





Brittany M. Llewellyn, Attorney

Weinberg Wheeler Hudgins Gunn & Dial

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Sent: Thursday, February 4, 2021 12:55 PM

To: Llewellyn, Brittany M.; Fedder, Natasha S.; Balkenbush, Colby; Roberts, Lee

Cc: Pat Lundvall; Amanda Perach

Subject: Fremont Emergency Services v. UnitedHealth Group, et al. - order denying United's motion to compel

This Message originated outside your organization.

Brittany and Natasha -

Per your request, please see the attached revision to your signature block. Please provide authority for insertion of your e-signature for submission to the Court.

Thank you,

Kristy

Kristen T. Gallagher | Partner

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1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Fremont Emergency Services CASE NO: A-19-792978-B 6 (Mandavia) Ltd, Plaintiff(s) DEPT. NO. Department 27 7 VS. 8 United Healthcare Insurance 9 Company, Defendant(s) 10 11 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 13 Court. The foregoing Order Denying Motion was served via the court's electronic eFile 14 Service Date: 2/4/2021 15 16 Audra Bonney 17 Cindy Bowman 18 D. Lee Roberts 19 Raiza Anne Torrenueva 20 Colby Balkenbush 21 Brittany Llewellyn 22 23 Pat Lundvall 24 Kristen Gallagher 25 Amanda Perach 26 Beau Nelson

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DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

13 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., UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Connecticut corporation; UNITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES INC. dba

UNITEDHEALTHCARE, a Minnesota corporation; UMR, INC. dba UNITED 22

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. 27

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Case No.: A-19-792978-B

Dept. No.: 27

HEARING REQUESTED

MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST AND SECOND REQUESTS FOR **PRODUCTION**

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Defendants UnitedHealth Group, Inc.; UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company; United HealthCare Services, Inc.; UMR, Inc.; Oxford Health Plans LLC (incorrectly named as "Oxford Health Plans, Inc."); Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc.; Sierra Health-Care Options, Inc. and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. (collectively, "United" or "Defendants"), hereby submit the following Motion for Reconsideration of the Court's Order denying United's Motion to Compel Plaintiffs' Responses to Defendants' First and Second Requests for Production. This Motion is made and based upon the papers and pleadings on file herein, the following memorandum of points and authorities, and any arguments made by counsel at the time of the hearing.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2021.

/s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn

D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq. Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq. Brittany M. Llewellyn, Esq. WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS, GUNN & DIAL, LLC 6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Telephone: (702) 938-3838 Facsimile: (702) 938-3864

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Attorneys for Defendants

DECLARATION OF BRITTANY M. LLEWELLYN IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST AND SECOND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION

- 1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada, an attorney at Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC, counsel for Defendants in the above-captioned matter.
- 2. This Declaration is submitted in support of Defendants' Motion for Reconsideration of the Court's Order denying Defendants' Motion to Compel Plaintiffs' Responses to Defendants' First and Second Set of Requests for Production. I have personal knowledge of the matters set forth herein and, unless otherwise stated, am competent to testify to the same if called upon to do so.
- 3. True and accurate copies of the Plaintiffs' Nevada Secretary of State Filings are attached hereto as *Exhibit 1*.
- 4. True and accurate copies of Adobe PDF printouts of Plaintiffs' Internet presence are attached hereto as *Exhibit 2*.
- 5. True and accurate copies of EDGAR search results for Plaintiffs are attached hereto as *Exhibit 3*.
- 6. A true and accurate copy of *Completes Previously Announced Transaction with Blackstone*, TEAMHealth, https://www.teamhealth.com/news-and-resources/press-release/blackstone/?r=1 is attached hereto as *Exhibit 4*.
- 7. I declare that the foregoing is true and correct under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the state of Nevada.

DATED: February 18, 2021

/s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

This case arises from a dispute between Plaintiffs, TeamHealth-affiliated providers of emergency medical services, and United over the benefit payments due to Plaintiffs for alleged emergency services rendered to United's members. In furtherance of its defense against Plaintiffs' claims, United served discovery related to Plaintiffs' costs for rendering the at-issue emergency services (Request Nos. 68, 86, 92, 93, and 94) (the "Actual Cost Discovery"). This discovery sought documents and information with regard to Plaintiffs' incurred cost to perform emergency services and how that cost compares to Plaintiffs' unilaterally-set billed charges for those same services. United expects that the Actual Cost Discovery will show that the benefit rates to which Plaintiffs claim entitlement—75–90% of their billed charges—are excessive because those rates bear no relation to the actual cost of performing the underlying services. United has a right to this discovery to test Plaintiffs' allegations and to support its Sixth affirmative defense ("Some or all of Plaintiffs' billed charges are excessive under the applicable standards"), among others. See Defendants' Answer ("Answer") to Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint ("FAC") at ¶ 44.

United now respectfully requests that this Court reconsider its February 4, 2021 Order Denying Defendants' Motion to Compel Responses to Defendants' First and Second Requests for Production on Order Shortening Time (the "Order"), which denied United's Motion to Compel the Actual Cost Discovery. First, the Court denied the Actual Cost Discovery without making a ruling on the governing standard applicable to Plaintiffs' causes of action. The Court appears to have applied a "market" standard to deny the requested discovery, which is not the standard established in the Nevada authority that the Court considered. Although some jurisdictions apply a "fair market value" standard where there is a state statute that addresses

¹ See also Answer at 44, 47, 48 (setting forth United's Fourteenth ("Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent they have not suffered any damages"), Eighteenth ("Plaintiffs' claims are barred, in whole or in part, to the extent that Plaintiffs have not mitigated their damages"), and Twenty-Sixth ("Plaintiffs are not entitled to relief because they have received all payments due, if any, for the covered services they provided in accordance with the terms of their patients' health plans") affirmative defenses).

cause of action here. Rather, they have pleaded common law unjust enrichment and breach of implied contract claims (among others) to which Nevada courts apply a "reasonable value" standard. *See Flamingo Realty, Inc. v. Midwest Dev., Inc.*, 110 Nev. 984, 987, 879 P.2d 69, 71 (1994). Proper considerations in determining the reasonable value of services rendered include "market value," a "previous agreement between the parties," or "any other evidence regarding the value of services." *Las Vegas Sands Corp. v. Suen*, 132 Nev. 998, 2016 WL 4076421, at *4 (2016). The Actual Cost Discovery is thus certainly relevant to determining the reasonable value of the services underlying the Plaintiffs' health benefit claims. Furthermore, factually analogous

reimbursement rates for out-of-network services,² Plaintiffs have not pleaded any such statutory

Second, to the extent the Court's Order denied the Actual Cost Discovery based on a finding that the information United seeks is available in the public domain, the record does not support such a finding. While the Court found correctly that Plaintiffs are for-profit entities, Plaintiffs do not appear to be publicly-traded, and their Nevada Secretary of State filings are sparse at best.

authority from other jurisdictions holds that United is entitled to the Actual Cost Discovery in a

reimbursement dispute between a health plan and a healthcare provider that is not in the plan's

For these reasons and those set forth below, United respectfully requests that this Court grant this Motion, reconsider its ruling on the Motion to Compel, modify the Order, and compel the production of the Actual Cost Discovery sought.

II. LEGAL STANDARD

network, such as this case.

EDCR 2.24 allows a party to seek reconsideration of a ruling of the Court within fourteen (14) days after service of written notice of the order or judgment. EDCR 2.24. "A district court may reconsider a previously decided issue if . . . the decision is clearly erroneous." *Masonry &*

² See Baker Cty. Med. Servs., Inc. v. Aetna Health Mgm't, LLC, 31 So. 3d 842, 845 (Fla. 1st DCA 2010) ("Baker County") ("In the context of the [applicable Florida] statute, it is clear what is called for is the fair market value of the services provided. Fair market value is the price that a willing buyer will pay and a willing seller will accept in an arm's-length transaction.").

Tile Contractors Ass'n of S. Nevada v. Jolley, Urga & Wirth, Ltd., 113 Nev. 737, 741, 941 P.2d 486, 489 (1997). See also EDCR 2.24. Reconsideration is appropriate "[a]lthough the facts and the law [are] unchanged [if] the judge [is] more familiar with the case by the time the second motion [is] heard, and [she is] persuaded by the rationale of the newly cited authority." Harvey's Wagon Wheel, Inc. v. MacSween, 96 Nev. 215, 218, 606 P.2d 1095, 1097 (1980).

Reconsideration is warranted in many circumstances, including:

... 'when (1) the matter is presented in a "different light" or under 'different circumstances;' (2) there has been a change in the governing law; (3) a party offers new evidence; (4) "manifest injustice" will result if the court does not reconsider the prior ruling; (5) a court needs to correct its own errors; or (6) an issue was inadequately briefed when first contemplated by the court.'

Wasatch Oil & Gas, LLC v. Reott, 263 P.3d 391, 396 (Utah Ct. App. 2011) (quoting Trembly v. Mrs. Fields Cookies, 884 P.2d 1306, 1311 (Utah Ct. App. 1994)). The Court should grant a motion to reconsider whenever it has overlooked or misapprehended pertinent facts or law or for some other reason mistakenly arrived at in its earlier decision. Cf. NRAP 40(c)(2); see also Nelson v. Dettmer, 46 A.3d 916, 920 (Conn. 2012); Viola v. City of New York, 13 A.D.3d 439, 440 (N.Y. App. Div. 2004). A motion to reconsider is preferred over an appeal as a quicker, easier and less expensive method of correcting error. See, e.g., Osman v. Cobb, 77 Nev. 133, 136, 360 P.2d 258, 259 (1961) (denying costs because Rule 60 relief was not sought with the trial court).

III. LEGAL DISCUSSION

A. Reconsideration of the Order is necessary because the Court denied the Actual Cost Discovery based on the application of an erroneous legal standard

The Court should reconsider and modify the Order because the Court appears to have denied the Actual Cost Discovery based on the application of an erroneous legal standard. The Court did not rule on the governing standard for the causes of action Plaintiffs have pleaded.

The questions the Court posed at the hearing on United's Motion to Compel suggest that it applied some sort of "market" standard, and then ruled as follows:³

[T]his is really what it comes down to is it's a rate of pay case and it's not a cost case, and the plaintiff very carefully re-pled in that first amended complaint. So I just don't see where the corporate structure, the finances, even how the charges are determined is going to be relevant in this case. . . . this does not preclude the defendant from arguing that the charges are excessive -- if the charges changed; if they didn't; if the reimbursement rates changed -- it doesn't prevent you from defending the case by denying this motion. . . . unfortunately, you know, both companies are for-profit entities. The financial information that the defendant would want with regard to the plaintiffs' operations to prove the charges are excessive, the monopoly issue -- it just isn't relevant. It's not going to lead to the discovery of relevant information.

Tr. at 32:11–33:2.

The Nevada authority that the Court considered does not establish a "market" standard. In opposing United's Motion to Compel, Plaintiffs directed the Court to a single Nevada case, *Certified Fire Prot. Inc. v. Precision Contr.*, 128 Nev. 371, 283 P.3d 250 (2012), for the proposition that "Nevada law makes it clear that the reasonable value of services does not embody cost considerations, instead focusing on market value." Opp'n at 11; Tr. at 24:19-25:25 ("[L]ooking at the totality of what we have in Nevada, which is certified buyer [sic] -- which does look to the restatements of restitution for certain pieces of it which is going to be the unjust enrichment -- is that when we drill down, we're back to market value. And so that is what we've alleged. That's our damage model that we've disclosed."). *Certified Fire* did not make any such holding, however. The case described quantum meruit as "one of the common counts . . . available as a remedy at law to enforce implied promises or contracts. 1 Joseph M. Perillo, *Corbin on Contracts* § 1.18(b), at 53 (rev. ed. 1993); 7 C.J.S. *Action of Assumpsit* § 2

of the charges reasonable? Or does the market determine the setting of charges?"); see also Tr. at 14:15-

³ See Jan. 21, 2021 Transcript of Hearing regarding Motions (hereinafter, "Tr.") at 12:16-13:2 ("THE COURT: Okay. And I assume you have an expert witness who is going to talk about why you believe the

charges are excessive? THE COURT: But I assume your expert will be talking about market? THE COURT: The market where the plaintiffs operate."); *id.* at 16:14-15 ("THE COURT: Is the setting

18 (Plaintiffs' "relationship with [United] is what is at issue here.").

(2004). A party who pleaded quantum meruit sought recovery of the reasonable value, or 'as much as he has deserved,' for services rendered." *Certified Fire*, 128 Nev. at 379 (quoting *Black's Law Dictionary* 1361 (9th ed. 2009)). The court explained that, "quantum meruit ensures the laborer receives the reasonable value, usually market price, for his services." *Id.* at 380; *see Flamingo Realty*, 110 Nev. at 987 ("[T]he proper measure of damages under a quantum meruit theory of recovery is the reasonable value of [the] services" and the district court has "wide discretion in calculating an award of damages"); *Scaffidi v. United Nissan*, 425 F. Supp. 2d 1159, 1170 (D. Nev. 2005) ("In Nevada, '[t]he terms "restitution" and "unjust enrichment" are the modern counterparts of the doctrine of quasi-contract' 'In a case with a quantum meruit or unjust enrichment theory of recovery, the proper measure of damages is the "reasonable value of [the] services."") (internal citations omitted).

Nevada thus applies a "reasonable value" standard—as opposed to a "market" standard—to unjust enrichment and quantum meruit claims. Proper considerations in determining the reasonable value of services rendered include "market value," a "previous agreement between the parties," or "any other evidence regarding the value of services." *Las Vegas Sands Corp.*, 2016 WL 4076421 at *4. The Actual Cost Discovery is certainly relevant to determining the reasonable value of the services underlying the Plaintiffs' health benefit claims.

Looking to other jurisdictions, factually analogous authority counsels that the Actual Cost Discovery is relevant to this dispute, and necessary for United to marshal a defense to Plaintiffs' allegations. The District Court of Appeal of Florida in *Giacalone v. Helen-Ellis Memorial Hospital Foundation, Inc.*, for example, held that when a healthcare provider sues to recover medical charges under breach of contract and related theories, discovery regarding the provider's cost structure is both relevant and critical to establishing a defense that the charges were unreasonable. 8 So. 3d 1232, 1233-34, 1236 (Fla. 2d DCA 2009). The court reaffirmed *Giacalone* in *Gulfcoast Surgery Ctr., Inc. v. Fisher*, holding that a non-party surgical center's documents relating to internal cost structure were relevant to claims regarding reasonableness of charges. 107 So. 3d 493, 495 (Fla. 2d DCA 2013). Most recently, the Circuit Court for the 17th Judicial Circuit in *Florida Emergency Physicians Kang & Assocs., M.D., Inc. v. Sunshine State*

Health Plan, Inc. allowed discovery into plaintiffs' actual costs of providing the at-issue services where, as here, plaintiffs (who are, just like the plaintiffs here, affiliated with TeamHealth) alleged that defendants failed to adequately reimburse plaintiffs for emergency services and sought recovery on breach of implied contract and unjust enrichment theories, among others. CACE19-013026, Filing No. 118577916, at 1, 4-6 (Fl. Cir. Ct. Dec. 21, 2020). The court reasoned that, while it was "appropriate to consider the amounts billed and the amounts accepted by providers," it was not "inappropriate to allow discovery into other areas," and thus the court was not precluded from "compelling . . . cost of care discovery." *Id.* at 3, 5 (quoting *Baker County*, 31 So. 3d at 845).

The opinion of the Circuit Court for the 13th Judicial Circuit in *Gulf-to-Bay Anesthesia Associates, LLC vs. Unitedhealthcare of Florida, Inc., et al.* that Plaintiffs have latched onto is utterly distinguishable. There, the court denied discovery into plaintiff's costs of care on the basis that plaintiff asserted only statutory claims and defendants did not "raise[] any unreasonable pricing claims here, either by affirmative defense or counterclaim." CASE NO.: 17-CA-011207, Order Denying Defendants' Motion to Compel Discovery, at 4-6. Here, like the emergency room providers in *Florida Emergency Physicians*, Plaintiffs' actual costs of doing business are directly relevant to several of United's affirmative defenses, detailed *supra* at 4. Furthermore, unlike the Florida statute at issue in *Gulf-to-Bay*, Plaintiffs' pleading contains no claim based on a statute that addresses compensation of out-of-network emergency services. No such statutory claim is available to Plaintiffs in Nevada.⁴

In this case, like in *Giacalone*, *Gulfcoast Surgery*, and *Florida Emergency Physicians*, United has requested discovery on Plaintiffs' actual costs for rendering the disputed healthcare services and has done so for purposes of challenging Plaintiffs' billed charges as excessive or

A special statutory rate of payment scheme passed in the 2019 Nevada Legislative Session, but those

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unreasonable. Such evidence is relevant to the reasonableness of a healthcare provider's charges. See Giacalone, 8 So. 3d at 1235-36; see also Gulfcoast Surgery Ctr., 107 So. 3d at 495; Florida Emergency Physicians at 4-6. Plaintiffs, for their part, have placed the reasonableness of their charges squarely at issue. Indeed, charges are the very metric Plaintiffs point to in alleging that United's payments are unreasonable. Furthermore, Plaintiffs' own Complaint suggests that reimbursement at 100% of their charges is **not** reasonable; rather, "a reasonable reimbursement rate" for the disputed health benefit claims is "75-90% of the Health Care Providers' billed charge." FAC ¶ 54 (emphasis added). If 100% of billed charges is not a reasonable reimbursement rate—i.e., if billed charges do not reflect the reasonable value of the underlying services—then the Actual Cost Discovery is all the more relevant to the reasonable value determination. United has a right to both prove up its affirmative defenses and test Plaintiffs' allegations by comparing Plaintiffs' billed charges to Plaintiffs' actual costs to provide the underlying services.

The Court denied the Actual Cost Discovery without making a ruling as to the governing standard for the causes of action Plaintiffs have pleaded. Furthermore, the "market" standard the Court appears to have applied is erroneous. Under the reasonable value standard applicable to Nevada common law unjust enrichment and quantum meruit claims, the Actual Cost Discovery is clearly relevant, and United respectfully requests that the Court reconsider its Order and compel the Actual Cost Discovery.

B. Reconsideration of the Order is necessary to the extent the Order is based on a finding that the Actual Cost Discovery is available in the public domain

The Court should reconsider and modify the Order denying Actual Cost Discovery to the extent the Order denied the Actual Cost Discovery based on a finding that the information United seeks is available in the public domain.⁵ While the Court correctly acknowledged that Plaintiffs are for-profit entities, there is nothing in the record suggesting that they are publicly

⁵ See Tr. at 9:9-14; 10:19-23; 34:2-7.

traded.⁶ See Exhibit 3, attached hereto (compiling searches of the Securities and Exchange Commission's EDGAR database of company filings yielding no results). Plaintiffs' Secretary of State filings, attached hereto as Exhibit 1 are sparse, providing only that Plaintiffs are "Domestic Professional Corporations" that share some corporate officers. Plaintiffs do not appear to have websites, and a Google search yields little more than addresses, phone numbers, and references to their connection to TeamHealth. See Exhibit 2, attached hereto (compiling examples of Plaintiffs' limited Internet presence).

In short, there is little publicly available information about Plaintiffs' corporate characteristics at all, and no information about their financials or actual costs of care. To the extent the Court denied the Actual Cost Discovery on the theory that the information United seeks is publicly available, that finding is not supported in the record, and United respectfully requests that the Court reconsider its Order and compel the Actual Cost Discovery.

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⁶ Certainly, TeamHealth is not publicly-traded. See Completes Previously Announced Transaction with Blackstone, TEAMHealth, https://www.teamhealth.com/news-and-resources/press-release/blackstone/?r=1 is attached hereto as Exhibit 4 ("Team Health Holdings, Inc. . . . today announced the successful completion of its acquisition by funds affiliated with Blackstone . . . for \$43.50 per share in cash, valued at approximately \$6.1 billion As a result of the transaction, TeamHealth is now a privately held company. TeamHealth's common stock is no longer traded on the New York Stock Exchange").

IV. RELIEF REQUESTED

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United respectfully requests that this Court reconsider its February 4, 2021 Order Denying Defendants' Motion to Compel Responses to Defendants' First and Second Requests for Production on Order Shortening Time, modify the Order, and compel the production of the Actual Cost Discovery.

Dated this 18th day of February, 2021.

/s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn

D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq.
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K. Lee Blalack, II, Esq. Admitted Pro Hac Vice O'Melveny & Myers LLP 1625 Eye St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 Telephone: (202) 383-5374 Attorneys for Defendants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 18th day of February, 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO COMPEL PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSES TO DEFENDANTS' FIRST AND SECOND REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION was electronically filed and 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 Plaintiffs

/s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn

An employee of WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS GUNN & DIAL, LLC

EXHIBIT 1

ENTITY INFORMATION

ENTITY INFORMATION

Entity Name:

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (SCHERR), LTD.

Entity Number:

C7781-1990

Entity Type:

Domestic Professional Corporation (89)

Entity Status:

Active

Formation Date:

08/21/1990

NV Business ID:

NV19901034076

Termination Date:

Perpetual

Annual Report Due Date:

8/31/2021

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Name of Individual or Legal Entity:

CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY

Status:

Active

21	SilverFlume Nevada's Business Portal to start/manage your business	00
	CRA Agent Entity Type:	
	Registered Agent Type:	
	Commercial Registered Agent	
	NV Business ID:	
	NV20101844335	
	Office or Position:	
	Jurisdiction:	
	DELAWARE	
	Street Address:	
	112 NORTH CURRY STREET, Carson City, NV, 89703, USA	
	Mailing Address:	
	Individual with Authority to Act:	
	GEORGE MASSIH	

OFFICER INFORMATION

☐ VIEW HISTORICAL DATA

Fictitious Website or Domain Name:

Title	Name	Address	Last Updated	Status
President	SCOTT SCHERR, MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	07/22/2020	Active
Secretary	SCOTT SCHERR MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	07/22/2020	Active
Director	SCOTT SCHERR MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	07/22/2020	Active
Treasurer	KRISTOPHER SMITH	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, PLEASANTON, CA, 94588, USA	06/26/2019	Active

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23,000				
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NAME HISTORY

ENTITY INFORMATION

Entity Name:

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (SCHERR), LTD.

Entity Number:

C7781-1990

Entity Type:

Domestic Professional Corporation (89)

Entity Status:

Active

Formation Date:

08/21/1990

NV Business ID:

NV19901034076

Termination Date:

Perpetual

Annual Report Due Date:

8/31/2021

NAME HISTORY DETAILS

File Date	Effective Date	Filing Number	Consent Date	Name
04/28/2008	04/28/2008			FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES, INC.
10/02/2009	10/02/2009			FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (BROWN), LTD.

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File Date	Effective Date	Filing Number	Consent Date	Name
11/16/2015	11/16/2015			FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (HENNER AND SEARS), LTD.
09/21/2020	09/21/2020	20200924782		FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA), LTD.
Page 1 of 1,	records 1 to 4 o	f 4		

Back Return to Search Return to Results

ENTITY INFORMATION

ENTITY INFORMATION

Entity Name:

TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-SCHERR, P.C.

Entity Number:

E0521322013-7

Entity Type:

Domestic Professional Corporation (89)

Entity Status:

Active

Formation Date:

10/29/2013

NV Business ID:

NV20131633249

Termination Date:

Perpetual

Annual Report Due Date:

10/31/2021

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Name of Individual or Legal Entity:

CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY

Status:

Active

CRA Agent Entity Type:
Registered Agent Type:

Commercial Registered Agent

NV Business ID:

NV20101844335

Office or Position:

Jurisdiction:

DELAWARE

Street Address:

112 NORTH CURRY STREET, Carson City, NV, 89703, USA

Mailing Address:

Individual with Authority to Act:

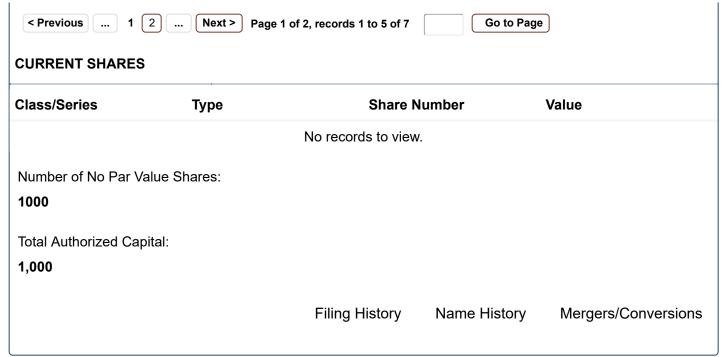
GEORGE MASSIH

Fictitious Website or Domain Name:

OFFICER INFORMATION

☐ VIEW HISTORICAL DATA

Title	Name	Address	Last Updated	Status
President	SCOTT SCHERR MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	10/17/2019	Active
Officer	JENNIFER BEHM	5000 Hopyard Road, Suite 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	10/17/2019	Active
Officer	JOHN R STAIR	265 BROOKVIEW CENTRE WAY STE 400, KNOXVILLE, TN, 37919, USA	10/17/2019	Active
Officer	JOHN BARRACK	265 BROOKVIEW CENTRE WAY STE 400, KNOXVILLE, TN, 37919, USA	10/17/2019	Active
Secretary	SCOTT SCHERR MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	10/17/2019	Active



Return to Search Return to Results

ENTITY INFORMATION

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Entity Name:

TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-SCHERR, P.C.

Entity Number:

E0521322013-7

Entity Type:

Domestic Professional Corporation (89)

Entity Status:

Active

Formation Date:

10/29/2013

NV Business ID:

NV20131633249

Termination Date:

Perpetual

Annual Report Due Date:

10/31/2021

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Name of Individual or Legal Entity:

CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY

Status:

Active

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	CRA Agen	t Entity Type:			
	Registered	d Agent Type:			
	Commercia	al Registered A	Agent		
	NV Busine	ess ID:			
	NV201018	44335			
	Office or F	osition:			
	Jurisdictio DELAWAR				
	Street Add	lress:			
	112 NORTI	H CURRY STE	REET, Carson City, NV, 89703, USA		
	Mailing Ad	Idress:			
	Individual	with Authorit	y to Act:		
	GEORGE I	MASSIH			
	Fictitious \	Website or Do	omain Name:		
OF	FICER INFO	PRMATION			
	VIEW HIST	ORICAL DATA	A.		
Γitle	e Nam	e	Address	Last Updated	Status
Dire	ctor SCO	TT SCHERR	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	10/17/2019	Active

Title	Name	Address			Last Updated	Status		
Director	SCOTT SCHERR MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, 94588, USA	SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA	٠,	10/17/2019	Active		
Treasurer	KRISTOPHER SMITH	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, 94588, USA	SUITE 100, PLEASANTON,	CA,	10/04/2018	Active		
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NAME HISTORY

ENTITY INFORMATION

Entity Name:

TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-SCHERR, P.C.

Entity Number:

E0521322013-7

Entity Type:

Domestic Professional Corporation (89)

Entity Status:

Active

Formation Date:

10/29/2013

NV Business ID:

NV20131633249

Termination Date:

Perpetual

Annual Report Due Date:

10/31/2021

NAME HISTORY DETAILS

File Date	Effective Date	Filing Number	Consent Date	Name
12/23/2013	12/23/2013			TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-GREEN, P.C.

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File Date	Effective Date	Filing Number	Consent Date	Name
12/03/2019	10/03/2019	20190325369		TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-MANDAVIA, P.C.
Page 1 of 1, records 1 to 2 of 2				

Back Return to Search Return to Results

ENTITY INFORMATION

ENTITY INFORMATION

Entity Name:

CRUM, STEFANKO AND JONES, LTD.

Entity Number:

C13107-1993

Entity Type:

Domestic Professional Corporation (89)

Entity Status:

Active

Formation Date:

10/22/1993

NV Business ID:

NV19931084473

Termination Date:

Perpetual

Annual Report Due Date:

10/31/2021

REGISTERED AGENT INFORMATION

Name of Individual or Legal Entity:

CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY

Status:

Active

CRA Agent Entity Type:
Registered Agent Type:

Commercial Registered Agent

NV Business ID:

NV20101844335

Office or Position:

Jurisdiction:

DELAWARE

Street Address:

112 NORTH CURRY STREET, Carson City, NV, 89703, USA

Mailing Address:

Individual with Authority to Act:

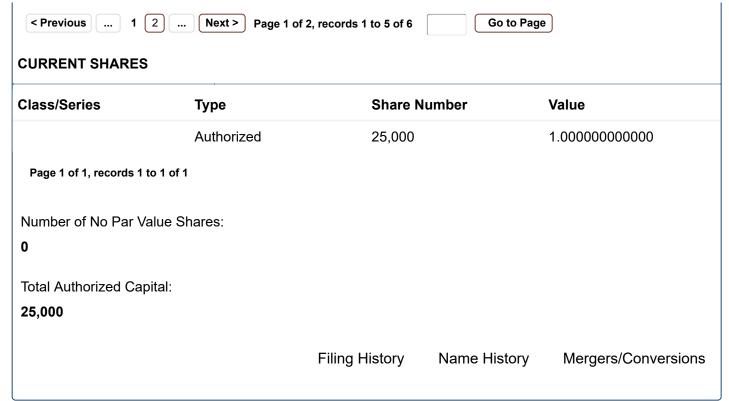
GEORGE MASSIH

Fictitious Website or Domain Name:

OFFICER INFORMATION

☐ VIEW HISTORICAL DATA

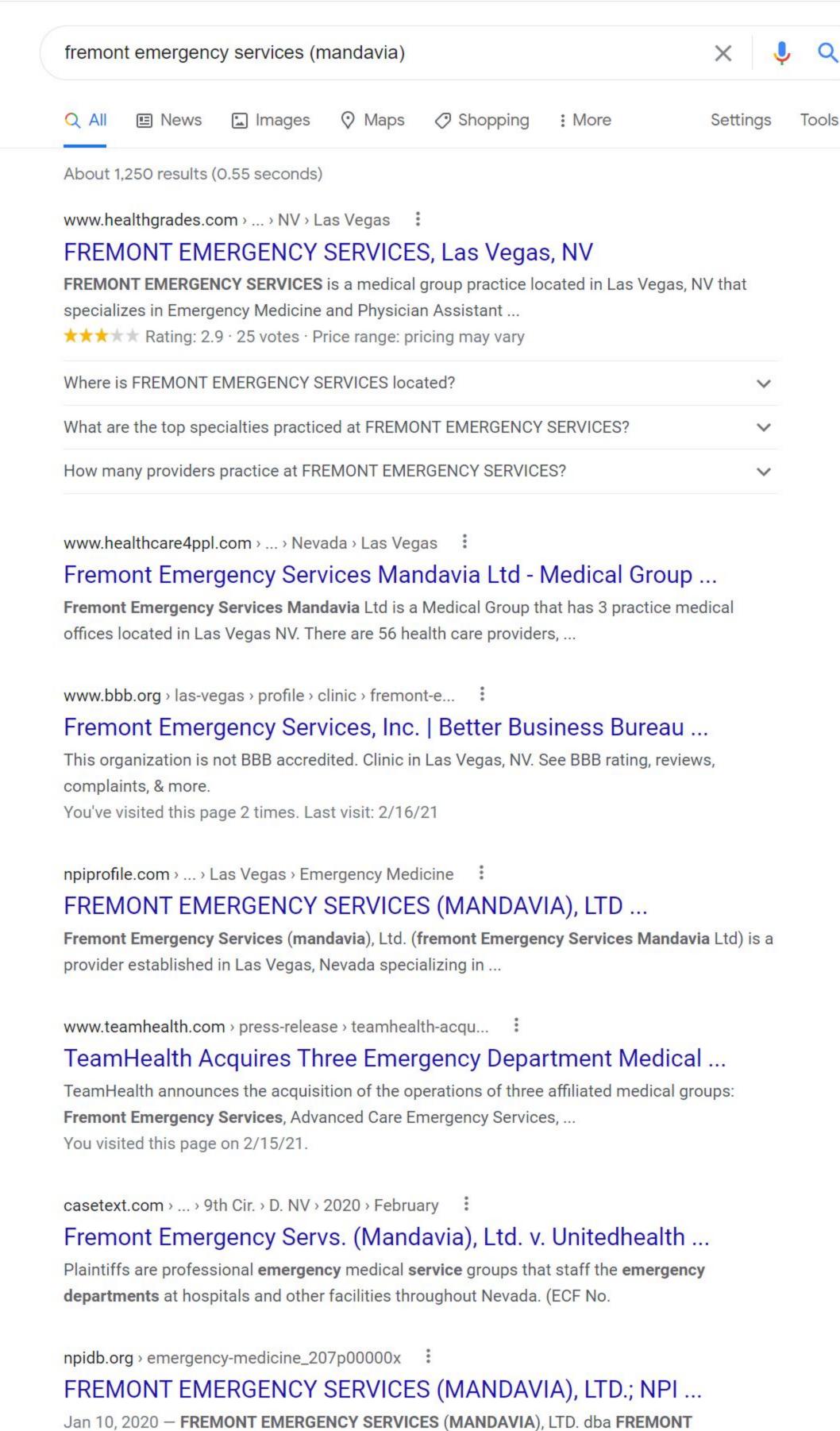
Title	Name	Address	Last Updated	Status
President	SCOTT SCHERR MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	10/17/2019	Active
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Director	SCOTT SCHERR MD	5000 HOPYARD ROAD, SUITE 100, Pleasanton, CA, 94588, USA	10/17/2019	Active

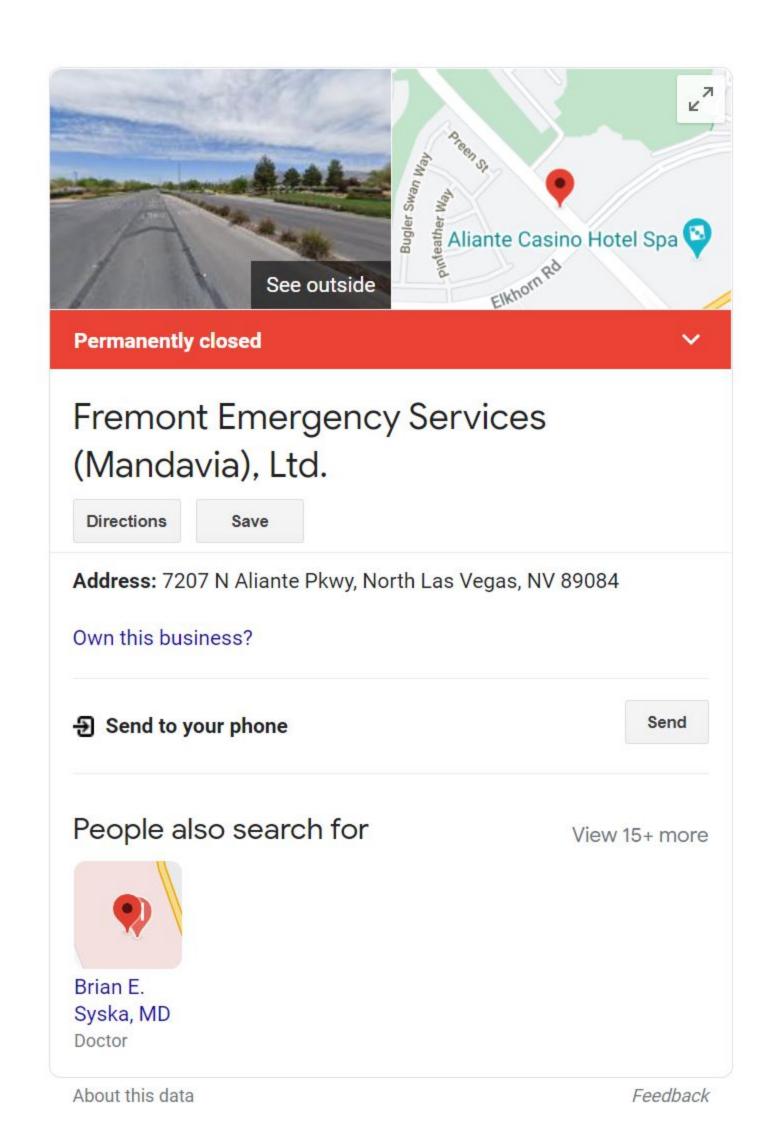


Return to Search Return to Results

EXHIBIT 2







doctor.webmd.com > practice > fremont-emergency-ser...

EMERGENCY SERVICES MANDAVIA LTD in NORTH LAS VEGAS, ...

Team Physicians Of Nevada-mandavia Pc - Medical Group in ...

Detailed information about Team Physicians Of Nevada-mandavia Pc, a Medical Group - Health Care Provider in Fallon Nevada, including its practice locations, ...

npidb.org > allopathic_osteopathic_physicians

TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-MANDAVIA PC; NPI ...

Jan 10, 2020 — **TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-MANDAVIA PC in PLEASANTON, CA. Profile** from the NPI Registry.

healthprovidersdata.com > hipaa > codes > NPI-107394...

team physicians of nevada-mandavia pc npi 1073942116

TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-MANDAVIA PC is an emergency medicine in Pleasanton, CA. The provider's NPI Number is 1073942116 with a scope of ...

www.hipaaspace.com > medical_billing > coding > codes :

1073942116 NPI Number | TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA ...

The 1073942116 NPI number is assigned to the healthcare provider **TEAM PHYSICIANS OF** NEVADA-MANDAVIA PC, practice location address at 5000 ...

www.teamhealth.com > press-release > teamhealth-acqu...

TeamHealth Acquires Three Emergency Department Medical ...

... and staff eight hospital emergency departments in the Las Vegas, Nevada, market. These groups work with more than 120 physicians and advanced practice ... You visited this page on 2/15/21.

www.teamhealth.com > jobs > 7164br-medical-director...

7164BR: Medical Director - Emergency Medicine, Fallon, NV ...

Deliver compassionate patient care leading our emergency department (ED) team at Banner Churchill Community Hospital in Fallon, Nevada. Physician shifts in ...

nevadawolfpack.com > ot-unv-sports-medicine-html :

Sports Medicine - University of Nevada Athletics

Jul 21, 2017 - Dr. Arthur Islas is the Wolf Pack's team physician and Director of the UNSOM Sports Medicine Fellowship program, and partners with Dr. Mark ...

www.vitals.com > group-practice > nevada > clark > em...

Emergency Physicians Medical Group Reviews | Las Vegas, NV

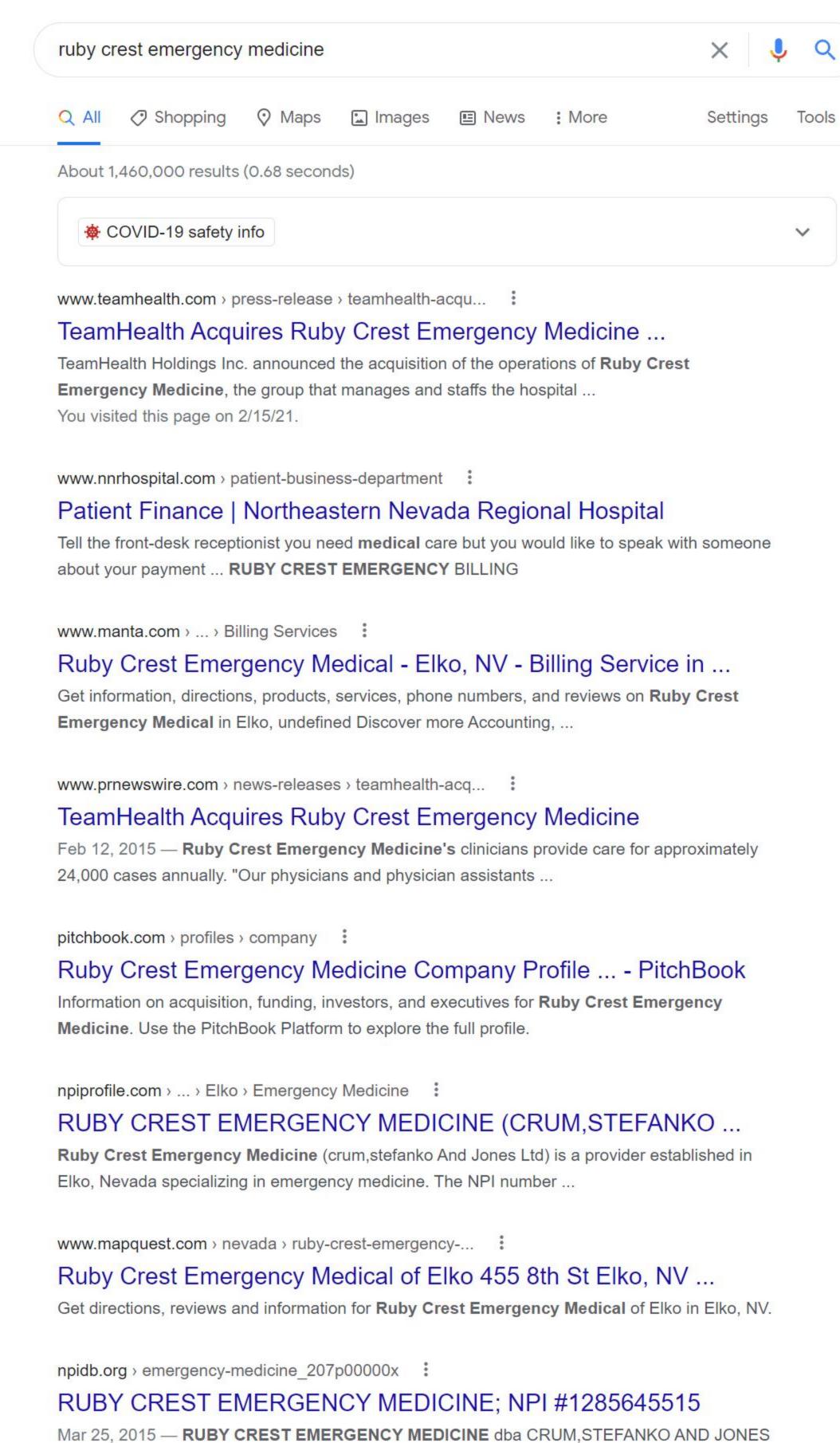
Emergency Physicians Medical Group has been reviewed by 16 patients. The rating is 3.8 out of 5 stars. The average wait time to see a **doctor** at Emergency ...

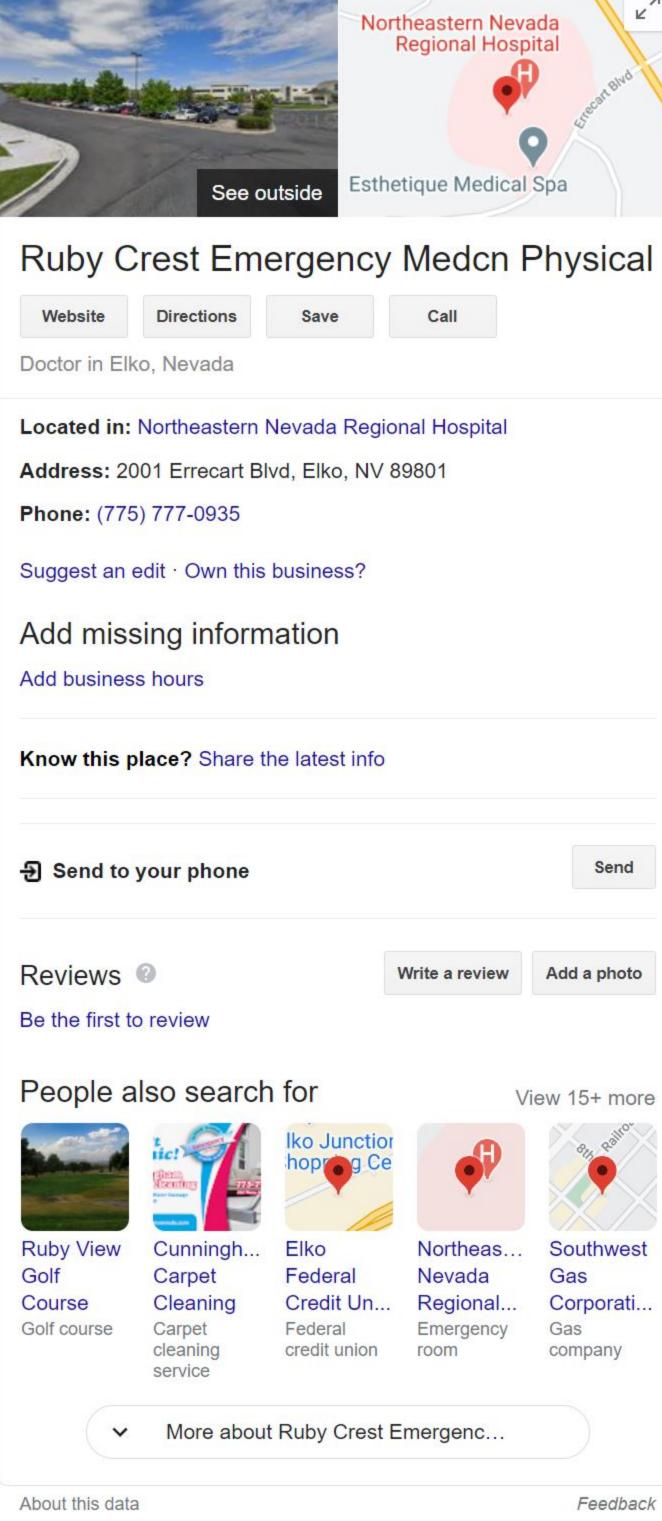
**** Rating: 3.8 · 16 votes

www.corporationwiki.com > U.S. > Tennessee > Knoxville

Team Physicians of Nevada-Mandavia, P.C. in Knoxville TN ...







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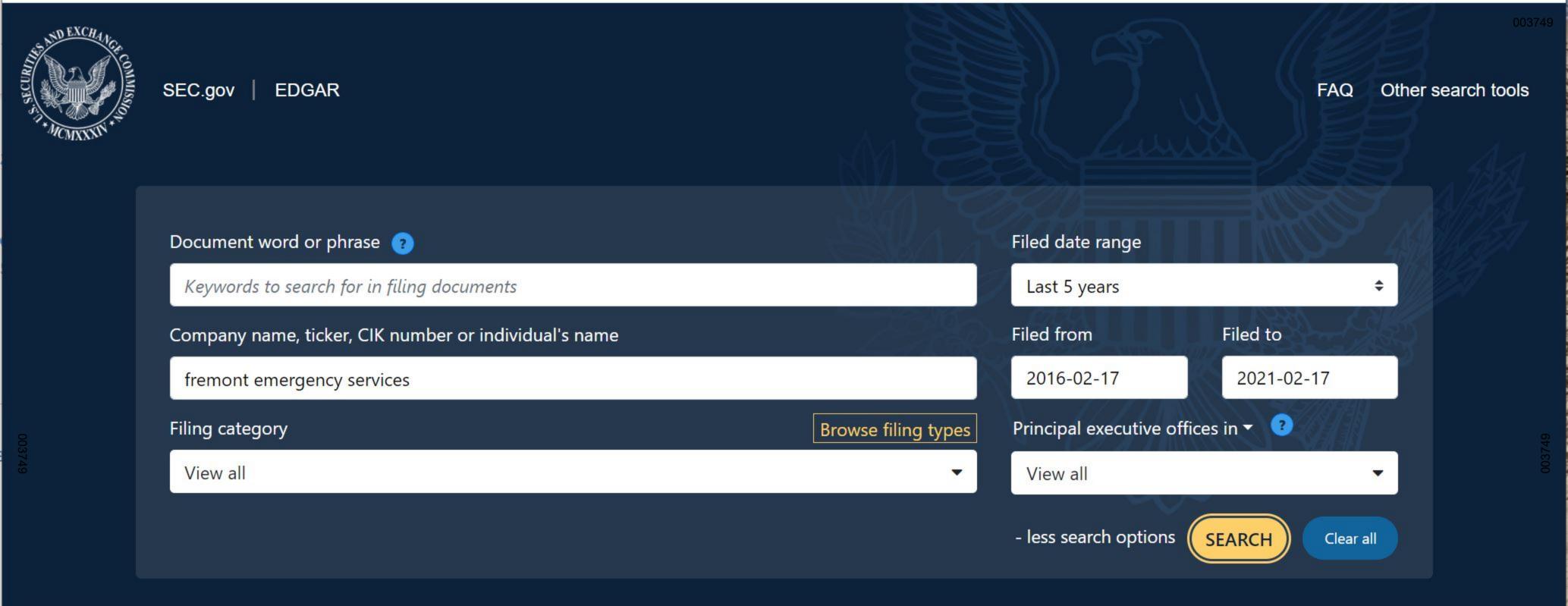
See results about

staffingtoday.net > 2015/02/13 > teamhealth-acquires-r...

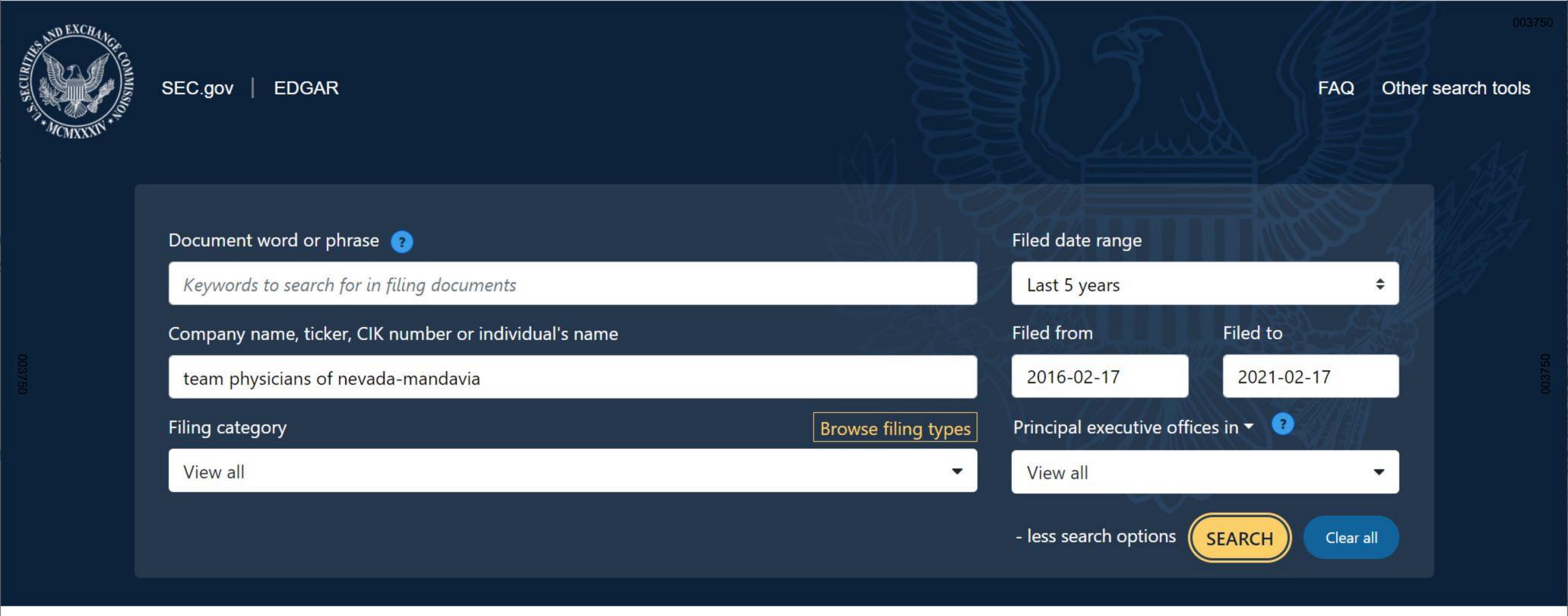
LTD in ELKO, NV. Profile from the NPI Registry.

Ruby Crest Emergency Medicine Inc.

EXHIBIT 3



No results found for the past 5 years. Consider expanding the filed date range!



No results found for the past 5 years. Consider expanding the filed date range!