	IDENTIFIED DEPOSITION OF A NURSE PRACTITIONER A FAILURE TO DIAGNOSE CANCER CASE	
1		1
2	SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK	
3	COUNTY OF KINGS	
4	INDEX NO.	
5	x	
6	,	
7	Plaintiff,	
8	-against-	
9	, M.D.,	
10	, P.C., and	
11	Defendants.	
12		
13	x	
14		
15		
16		
17	10:30 a.m.	
18		
19	DEPOSITION of , N.P., a	
20	Non-Party Witness in the above-entitled	
21	action, held at the above time and place,	
22	taken before Jennifer Brennan, a Notary	
23	Public of the State of New York, pursuant	
24	to Order.	
25		
1		2
2	APPEARANCES:	
3	LAW OFFICES OF GERALD M. OGINSKI, LLC	
4	Attorneys for Plaintiff 25 Great Neck Road	
5	Great Neck, New York 11021	
6	BY: GERALD M. OGINSKI, ESQ.	
7		
8	Attorneys for Defendant , M.D. and	
U	Non-Party Witness	

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                                                                                                                                                                                                         , ESQ.
                                               BY:
11
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                                               Attorneys for Defendant - ,
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                                               BY:
                                                                                                     , ESQ.
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                                               Attorneys for Defendant - ,
18
                                               P.C.
19
20
                                               BY:
                                                                                                     , ESQ.
21
22
                                               ALSO PRESENT: , M.D.
23
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        2
                                                                                                                STIPULATIONS
                                                            IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and among
        3
        4
                                        the attorneys for the respective parties % \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right
                                      hereto, that:
        5
        6
                                                            All rights provided by the C.P.L.R.,
                                      and Part 221 of the Uniform Rules for the
        7
                                      Conduct of Depositions, including the
        8
                                        right to object to any question, except
       9
10
                                        as to form, or to move to strike any
                                        testimony at this examination is
11
                                         reserved; and in addition, the failure to
12
13
                                      object to any question or to move to
                                        strike any testimony at this examination
14
15
                                         shall not be a bar or waiver to make such
16
                                      motion at, and is reserved to, the trial
17
                                      of this action.
18
                                                            This deposition may be sworn to by the
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witness being examined before a Notary

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21
     before whom this examination was begun,
22
     but the failure to do so or to return the
     original of this deposition to counsel,
23
24
     shall not be deemed a waiver of the
     rights provided by Rule 3116, C.P.L.R.,
                           , N.P.
 1
 2
     and shall be controlled thereby.
        The filing of the original of this
 3
 4
     deposition is waived.
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 6
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10
11
                         , the Witness
12
13
     herein, having first been duly sworn by
     the Notary Public, was examined and
14
15
     testified as follows:
     EXAMINATION BY
16
17
     MR. OGINSKI:
18
         Q
               Please state your name for the
19
      record?
20
         Α
               Please state your address for
21
         Q
22
     the record?
         Α
23
24
25
                : Unfortunately, I
                                               5
 1
                 , N.P.
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Public other than the Notary Public

20

, N.P.

did not tell Dr. to bring

the original chart with him today. I

4	was under the mistaken impression
5	that I had it in my file and I do
6	not.
7	What we have today is a
8	photocopy of the chart, plus I found
9	a folder of additional materials that
10	we copied from the original chart of
11	Dr. EBT, which are
12	additional pages beyond what I copied
13	as the chart copy. So we have these
14	two copies today.
15	And we do have though, the
16	original composition book, which I
17	think the case record has called
18	this, "the call back book." At a
19	deposition last time, we used this
20	photocopy. It was marked on

1 , N.P.

as Plaintiff's Exhibit 3 and it's a

redacted version of the composition

original here if anybody wants to do

The problem is, obviously,

book, which I said I have the

a D and I of it.

3 HIPAA concerns of the privacy of
4 other patients in the book, which is
5 why last time, we had agreed to use
6 this redacted photocopy, rather than
7 the original book.

8 BY MR. OGINSKI:

21

22

23

24

25

2

9 Q Good morning.

10 A Good morning.

11 Q Where do you currently work?

12 A '

13 Q What do you do?

14 A Nurse practitioner.

- 15 Q And how long have you been a
- 16 nurse practitioner, approximately?
- 17 A About 13 years.
- 18 Q And how long have you worked
- 19 for 3
- 20 A years.
- 21 Q And what do you do as a nurse
- 22 practitioner?
- 23 A I see patients in the office,
- 24 both GYN and OB.

25 Q And when you say you see

- , N.P.
- 2 patients, tell me what you mean?
- 3 A I see them for routine annual
- 4 visits and OB care and problem visits.
- 5 Q When you see a patient for
- 6 routine annual visit, what do you do?
- 7 A Physical exam.
- 8 Q What else?
- 9 A For a routine, is pretty much a
- 10 physical exam, talk to them about their
- 11 history and any problems that they're
- 12 having and then do the physical.
- 13 Q Do you order any type of
- 14 diagnostic tests?
- 15 A If they need them, yes.
- 16 Q What type of diagnostic tests
- 17 might you order?
- 18 A Blood work, sonograms,
- 19 mammograms.
- 20 Q And do you have the ability to
- 21 do some of those diagnostic tests in your
- 22 office?
- 23 A We draw blood one day a week on
- 24 Saturdays in the office. We don't do
- 25 mammograms, breast sonograms in the

, N.P. 1

8

9

2 office.

- 3 When you say, "we do blood Q
- work," do you mean there is --4
- The office. 5
- 6 Hang on. That there is
- 7 somebody in the office, just dedicated to
- doing blood work? 8
- 9 Correct.
- Now, if blood work comes in for 10
- a patient where you had ordered a 11
- particular blood work to be done, who 12
- 13 actually sees and reads that blood work?
- : This is 14
- currently or then? 15
- 16 MR. OGINSKI: Currently.
- All the providers see the labs 17
- that come in. 18
- Let me rephrase it. If you 19
- 20 order blood work for a particular patient
- on an annual visit and now they have the 21
- blood work done, who actually sees and 22
- 23 reads that blood work results?
- I do. 24 Α
- Q And do you interpret those 25

, N.P. 1

- 2 results?
- 3 Yes. Α
- 4 Q And if those results are
- 5 normal, what happens to that result test?
- 6 Α It gets signed and put in the
- 7 chart.
- By whom?

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9 A Me.
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- 10 Q If the results are abnormal,
- 11 what, if anything, do you do?
- 12 A Call the patient.
- 13 Q And for what purpose is that
- 14 done?
- 15 A Follow-up, if they need
- 16 additional testing or need to come back
- 17 into the office, make an appointment.
- 18 Q Do you interpret the blood
- 19 tests that you read?
- 20 A Usually, yes.
- 21 Q And when you call the
- 22 patient -- withdrawn.
- 23 Do you personally call the
- 24 patient if there is something abnormal?
- 25 A Yes.

10

, N.P.

- 2 Q And do you discuss with them
- 3 what the abnormality is?
- 4 A Yes.
- 6 of action plan for them to take, in light
- 7 of the abnormality?
- 8 A Sometimes or I'll refer them to
- 9 a specialist, if that needs to happen.
- 10 Q Would that be some specialist
- 11 outside of office?
- 12 A Yes.
- 13 Q How many nurse practitioners
- 14 work in Dr. ' office currently?
- 15 A We have one other midwife,
- 16 nurse midwife.
- ${\tt 17} \qquad {\tt Q} \qquad {\tt Any other nurse practitioners}$
- 18 like yourself?
- 19 A No.

```
20 Q How many physicians currently
```

- 21 work in office?
- 22 A Three.
- 23 Q Are they all OB/GYN?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q And of those three, one of them

1 , N.P.

- 2 is ?
- 3 A Correct.
- 4 Q As part of your duties as a
- 5 nurse practitioner, would you say you are
- 6 qualified to give medical advice?
- 7 A Yes.
- 8 Q And your training is based upon
- 9 your schooling, your nursing schooling?
- 10 A Yes, and master's.
- 11 Q And where did you go to nursing
- 12 school?
- 13 A .
- 14 Q And from when to when?
- 15 A Two --

to .

- 16 Q And you received your -- what
- 17 was the degree?
- 18 A MSN.
- 20 of it, you got your master's together
- 21 with your nursing degree?
- 22 A Correct.
- 23 Q And you are licensed as a
- 24 registered nurse in New York?
- 25 A Correct.

12

1 , N.P.

2 Q As of when?

- 3 A .
- 4 Q Has your license ever been
- 5 revoked?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q Has your license ever been
- 8 suspended?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q If you order a sonogram on a
- 11 patient, where do the results from the
- 12 outside -- withdrawn.
- 13 If you order a sonogram on a
- 14 patient, the patient goes for the
- 15 sonogram and now the radiology facility
- 16 sends you a report, who reviews that
- 17 report?
- 18 A I do.
- 19 Q And when you review that
- 20 report, what, if anything, are you
- 21 looking for?
- 22 A Generally, I'm looking at the
- 23 impression and what their recommendation
- 24 is.
- 25 Q And if it's a normal finding,

1 , N.P.

- 2 what, if anything, do you do with that
- 3 report?
- 4 A I sign it and it goes in the
- 5 chart.
- 6 Q Do you notify the patient that
- 7 the report or the interpretation of
- 8 sonogram was normal?
- 9 A No.
- 10 Q Is the patient told to
- 11 follow-up after having the sonogram, to
- 12 learn what the results are?
- 13 A Not generally, if it's a normal

- 14 result.
- 15 Q How would the patient know what
- 16 the results were, if the radiology
- 17 facility does not tell the patient of
- 18 those results?
- 19 A Generally the radiologists send
- 20 a note or a letter to the patient, in
- 21 layman's terms, of their results. That's
- 22 the common practice. We usually
- 23 recommend patients follow-up with us if
- there is a concern, so we can follow-up
- 25 with results in the office. But if it's

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 a normal result, usually it's written on
- 3 the result that the radiology department
- 4 is also sending a note to the patient.
- 5 Q In that instance where the
- 6 radiology facility sends a layman's
- 7 letter to the patient letting them know
- 8 that they have a normal result, does your
- 9 office receive a copy of that?
- 10 A No.
- 11 Q How do you know that that's
- 12 what is done usually by a radiology
- 13 facility?
- 14 A It's usually written on the
- 15 report that's sent to us.
- 16 Q What is written?
- 17 A A similar report has been sent
- 18 to the patient in layman's terms.
- 19 Q Based upon your experience as a
- 20 nurse practitioner, when a patient is
- 21 sent to a radiology facility for a
- 22 sonogram or mammogram, is it your
- 23 understanding that it is common practice
- 24 for the facility to send normal letters

1 , N.P.

2 that test?

25

3 A Yes.

4 : Can you read

5 that back?

6 [At this time, the requested

7 portion of the record was read.]

8 : Objection to

9 the form.

10 Q Are you aware of any radiology

11 facilities that you have sent patients

12 to, that did not follow that practice

13 that you've described?

14 A I can't speak to that.

15 Q If the sonogram report shows

16 some type of abnormality and you are the

17 one who ordered it and now you look and

18 review that particular test, what do you

19 do in that instance?

20 A Call the patient.

21 Q And tell me what's the

22 conversation that you have with the

23 patient in that instance?

24 A It would depend on what the

25 report said. If the recommendation is to

16

, N.P.

2 go for a follow-up mammogram or more

3 extended views, we usually send them a

4 letter with a referral.

1

5 If the recommendation is to get

6 a biopsy, I will call them myself and

7 refer them to a breast specialist.

Q If you are not available to

- 9 review the sonogram report of a patient 10 that you had requested one be done, who else in the office would then review that 11 12 particular lab result, that diagnostic 13 test result? 14 : You need to be 15 specific about time because you've 16 heard personnel has changed from 17 until now. So when? All of my questions now will 18 19 relate to the time frame of 20 Okay. Within that time period, if you Q
- Q Within that time period, if you were not available and had ordered a sonogram test, who would read and review
- 24 the sonogram report?
- 25 A At that time, it would have

1 , N.P.

2 been Dr. .

Q And as you sit here now, are
you aware of what he did when he reviewed
a sonogram report and if he observed some
abnormality?

7 A Yes.

8

Q Tell me what he would do.

9 A He would do most likely what I

10 would have done, which is, call the

11 patient if more needed to be done and

12 send a letter and referral to the patient

13 to do more follow-up testing.

14 Q Now, if one of the physicians

15 who was working in Dr. 'office

16 had ordered a particular diagnostic test

17 on a patient was unavailable to read or

18 review that test, who would typically

19 then review it?

- Any of the providers that 20
- 21 worked there can review the labs that
- come in. 22
- When you say "provider," can 23
- you be more specific?
- 25 The doctors, the nurse

18 1 N.P.

- practitioners, the midwives. 2
- , were there any other 3
- nurse practitioners besides yourself? 4
- 5 Not in , no.
- So other than yourself, who 6
- 7 else --
- 8 A It was Dr.
- 9 : Let him finish
- 10 his questions before you start
- answering. 11
- 12 If you were reading and
- 13 interpreting the results of a sonogram
- report -- withdrawn. 14
- When you read a sonogram report 15
- that you had asked the patient to go have 16
- 17 done, do you typically pull the patient's
- file when you see the report or see an 18
- abnormality? 19
- 20 Are you talking about back in
- ? 21
- Yes, only in 22
- 23 Α I would probably have pulled
- 24 the chart, yes.
- Q Why would you do that? 25

19

, N.P. 1

To look through the history.

- 3 Q Is there ever an instance where
- 4 you would tell a patient to disregard any
- 5 further diagnostic tests that the doctor
- 6 had requested or ordered?
- 7 A Can you say that again?
- 8 Q Sure. If you find that there
- 9 is an abnormality on a sonogram result
- 10 and now you are calling the patient, is
- 11 there ever an instance where you would
- 12 tell the patient, listen, don't have the
- 13 additional test done; there is an
- 14 abnormality here, I want you to go do
- 15 something else?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q Were there instances where you
- 18 may have had questions about what was
- 19 contained in the results of a diagnostic
- 20 test and you spoke to Dr. or one
- of the other doctors in the office?
- 22 A I'm sure I've consulted with
- 23 them on results.
- 24 Q In your experience, 13 years
- 25 working as a nurse practitioner, is it

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 your opinion that you are qualified to
- 3 read and interpret sonogram results?
- 4 : Results,
- 5 meaning?
- 6 MR. OGINSKI: I'll rephrase it.
- 7 Q Based upon your experience as a
- 8 nurse practitioner, are you qualified to
- 9 read and interpret a written sonogram
- 10 report?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q And in your practice, have you
- 13 had occasion to speak to patients about

- 14 their sonogram results?
- 15 A Yes.
- 16 Q And based on sonogram results,
- 17 have you had opportunities to then
- 18 formulate some sort of treatment plan,
- 19 based upon a patient's sonogram results?
- 20 A Based on the recommendations
- 21 that the radiology department has put on
- 22 the report, yes. I don't make those
- 23 decisions.
- ${\tt Q} = {\tt Now},$  separate from the sonogram
- 25 report, are you qualified to read and

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 interpret sonogram films?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q And have there ever been
- 5 occasions where you, as a nurse
- 6 practitioner, have read or interpreted
- 7 sonogram films?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q And I guess the same
- 10 question -- let me rephrase it.
- 11 Have you ever had occasion to
- 12 read and interpret breast sonogram films?
- 13 A No
- 14 Q If you have a discussion with
- 15 the patient about an abnormality in their
- 16 sonogram report or any diagnostic test
- $\,$  17  $\,$  that you review and you sign that, is it
- 18 your custom and practice to make a note
- 19 of the date that you also reviewed that?
- 20 A Usually.
- 21 Q And if you speak to the
- $\,$  22  $\,$   $\,$  patient, do you make a notation on the
- 23 lab result itself, indicating that you
- 24 spoke to the patient?

	22
1	, N.P.
2	computerized. Everything is now done on
3	the computer.
4	Q Before that, in ?
5	A Yes, usually I would do that.
6	Q And what would you write down
7	if you had spoken with the patient?
8	A "Spoke with patient," and make
9	a notation of what was said.
10	Q Do you ever give the patient
11	medical advice, based upon the findings
12	in a sonogram report?
13	A Medical advice being?
14	Q Recommendations, what to do
15	next, treatment plan, treatment options?
16	: Objection, asked
17	and answered, to the extent that she
18	said that if a report says to do
19	something, she'll relay that to the
20	patient, but she doesn't make the
21	decision by herself.
22	So I think she's gotten into
23	that. Do you mean something above
24	and beyond? I'm not sure what you

, N.P. 2 Q If there is an abnormality in 3 the sonogram that's written down and there is no recommendation from the 5 radiologist about what to do next, are 6 there instances where you will make

recommendations to the patient about what

are getting at.

to do next?

25

- 9 A Not on my own, no.
- 10 Q What would you do in that
- 11 instance?
- 12 A I simply follow what the
- 13 recommendation is written on the
- 14 radiology report.
- ${\tt 15} \qquad {\tt Q} \qquad {\tt And if the recommendation is}$
- 16 the patient requires clinical follow-up,
- 17 what, if anything, do you do in that
- 18 instance?
- 19 A I've never seen that.
- 20 Q Do you have a memory of this
- 21 patient, ?
- 22 A I remember speaking with her.
- 23 I never met her.
- 24 Q And your memory of speaking
- 25 with her, is that just from what you

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 remember discussing with her or something
- 3 you reviewed in a note or chart that you
- 4 have in front of you?
- 5 A I remember speaking with her
- 6 and being asked to call her.
- 7 Q And how many times did you
- 8 speak with her?
- 9 A Once.
- 10 Q And who asked you to call her?
- 11 A , the office manager.
- 12 Q And why did ask you to
- 13 call her?
- 14 A She was in the problem book to
- 15 be followed up on.
- 16 Q What is the problem book?
- 17 A It's a book in the office,
- $\,$  18  $\,$  where we keep tabs of patients that need
- 19 to do follow-up work outside the office

- 20 or internally. And it's a way for us to
- 21 keep track of patients.
- 22 : It's the
- 23 composition notebook I'm actually
- 24 holding in my hand. And I have given
- 25 at the outset of the deposition,

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 redacted copies of the pertinent page
- 3 to all counsel.
- 4 Q And do you have a notation that
- 5 you made somewhere, about the date that
- 6 you called and spoke to
- 7 A On this -- (indicating).
- 8 Q So the page you're looking at
- 9 is called "Telephone conversations," and
- 10 on the original, there is a sticky note
- 11 that gets stuck on there; right?
- 12 A Yes.
- 14 would be number one of the conversation?
- 15 A Correct.
- 16 Q Before you called , had
- 17 you reviewed the patient's chart at that
- 18 time?
- 19 A  $\,$  I believe I looked through the
- 20 chart and did not see any results
- 21 pertaining to this breast mass.
- 22 Q When you tried to call
- 23 initially, were you able to reach her?
- 24 A I left a message.
- 25 Q So when you left -- that would

26

, N.P.

2 be a voice message?

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3 A Correct.
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- 4 Q You did not actually speak to
- 5 her that first interaction?
- 6 A Correct.
- 7 Q By the way, that's dated
- 8
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Now, I know you are looking at
- 11 a photocopy, does that say the time right
- 12 next to the date?
- 13 A No, that's my initials.
- 14 Q Now, at some point later that
- 15 day, did you speak to
- 16 A Yes.
- 17 Q And your note says, "Spoke with
- 18 patient"; is that correct?
- 19 A Yes.
- 20 Q "Had sono"?
- 21 A Yes.
- 22 Q Does that refer to the breast
- 23 sonogram?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q Tell me what else it says,

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 please?
- 3 A "And results equal benign
- 4 cyst."
- 5 Q How did you learn that
- 6 information?
- 7 A She told me.
- 8 Q Who told you?
- 9 A .
- 10 Q What was your understanding of
- 11 how learned that information?
- 12 A From the radiologist.
- 13 Q When you heard that

```
14 information, was that surprising to you?
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- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Why not?
- 17 A She was young.
- 18 Q I'm sorry, I have to rephrase
- 19 that. I apologize.
- 20 The fact that this patient was
- 21 told information about her results by the
- 22 radiology facility, did that surprise
- 23 you?
- 24 A No.
- 25 Q Tell me why.

1 , N.P.

- 2 A Because she went to a radiology
- 3 facility and they told her it was benign.
- 4 Q Did you ask her who it was who
- 5 told her that it was benign?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q And you had told me earlier
- 8 that, correct me if I am wrong, that it's
- 9 not unusual for the radiology facility to
- 10 tell the patient if they have a normal
- 11 result --
- 12 : Objection to
- 13 form.
- 14 Q -- while they're there?
- 15 : Objection.
- 16 Q Don't worry about her. You can
- 17 answer me, if you can.
- 18 A I'm sorry, what was the
- 19 question?
- 20 : Just so you
- 21 understand, the lawyers here have to
- 22 protect their clients. So you'll
- 23 hear them make objections from time
- 24 to time.

1 , N.P.

2 don't tell you to answer something,

3 you can answer it.

4 THE WITNESS: Okay.

5 Q Is it your understanding that

6 this was common practice, where the

7 radiology facility would tell the patient

8 if they have a normal test result?

9 A I don't know. I don't know if

10 that's a common practice at the radiology

11 place where she went.

12 Q I want you to assume that

13 went to in

14 .

15 A Okay.

16 Q Do you have any knowledge as to

17 whether that was common practice at this

18 particular facility?

19 A Yes.

20 Q Tell me about that.

21 A It was a place a lot of people

22 would go for their mammograms and

23 sonograms.

1

24 Q And in terms of the facility,

25 the radiology facility telling the

30

, N.P.

2 patients then and there, before they

3 leave, about the results of their test,

4 what's your understanding of that?

5 A That was not uncommon or I

6 should say, I didn't think that was

7 uncommon.

Q Did you ask during this

- 9 conversation, whether she had been
- 10 provided with a letter from the radiology
- 11 facility, in layman's terms, like you
- 12 told me earlier, indicating that
- 13 everything was normal in the test?
- 14 A No, I didn't ask.
- 15 Q Is there anything in the notes
- 16 that you reviewed in preparation for
- 17 coming here, that would indicate that the
- 18 Center sent your office
- 19 a copy of any letter they sent to
- 20 about that breast sonogram result?
- 21 A I did not see that in her
- 22 chart.
- 23 Q Now, you initialed that note;
- 24 correct?
- 25 A Correct.

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 Q And as well as the date?
- 3 A Yes.
- 4 Q Now, the notation underneath
- 5 there, is that in your handwriting?
- 6 A No.
- 7 Q It says, "I have in book that
- 8 she has breast mass"?
- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Do you know who wrote that?
- 11 A .
- 12 Q That's the office manager?
- 13 A Correct.
- 14 Q Do you know when that was
- 15 written down?
- 16 A I would assume it was on the
- 17 day she gave me this sticky, on
- 18 Q I don't want you to assume. Do
- 19 you have any knowledge?

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20 A I don't know.
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- 21 Q Now, you know Dr. ?
- 22 A Yes.
- 23 Q Dr. worked in Dr.
- ' office for a period of time;
- 25 correct?

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 A Correct.
- 3 Q At some point, she went out on
- 4 maternity leave; correct?
- 5 A She left before maternity
- 6 leave.
- 7 Q At some point?
- 8 A Yes, I think she left prior to
- 9 getting pregnant, but I can't remember
- 10 exactly.
- 11 Q Going back for a minute to the
- 12 conversation you had with , did you
- 13 ask how she knew that she had a
- 14 benign cyst from the breast sonogram?
- 15 A I did not ask her specifically.
- 16 She said, "They told me it was a benign
- 17 cyst."
- 18 : Off the record.
- 19 [At this time, a discussion was
- 20 held off the record.]
- 21 Q Did you have a discussion with
- 22 about the difference between a
- 23 benign cyst and a malignant cyst?
- 24 A No.

1

25 Q Did you have a discussion with

33

, N.P.

as to what treatment she needed to

- 3 do next, in light of her prior treatment
- 4 plan that had been formulated by Dr.
- 5
- 6 A It would be my practice to let
- 7 her know to do the other things that Dr.
- 8 had written in her notes and to
- 9 follow-up.
- 10 Q Do you have a memory as you sit
- 11 here today, of having told
- 12 specifically those things?
- 13 A Yes.
- 14 Q You remember telling her, I
- 15 want you to follow-up with the following
- 16 things?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q What did you tell her?
- 19 A To do a mammogram and see the
- 20 breast specialist.
- 21 Q Do you have any notes that
- 22 reflect that conversation?
- 23 A No.

- 24 Q And how did you know that she
- 25 still needed to see a breast specialist,

34

, N.P.

- 2 if you had not looked at her chart?
- 3 : She said she did
- 4 look at the chart.
- 5 MR. OGINSKI: I'll rephrase it.
- 6 Q How did you know that she
- 7 needed to see a breast specialist?
- 8 A Because she had not.
- 9 Q How did you learn that?
- 10 A I believe the conversation was,
- 11 have you done the other things that Dr.
- 12 asked and she had not. So I said,
- 13 "You still need to follow-up on these, on

```
14
     the mammo and the breast specialist."
15
               Did you ask her why she had not
16
     had the mammogram at the
17
18
         Α
               No.
19
               Did you know that when she went
         Q
20
                    , it was for purposes
     to
     of having both a breast sonogram and a
21
22
     mammogram?
23
                         : Objection.
24
               No.
         Α
25
         Q
               Did you have any conversation
                                             35
                           , N.P.
 1
 2
     with
                           about
 3
                         , at any time?
         Α
               No.
 5
         Q
               Did you ever review the report
 6
     generated by
                                   about
 7
                  sonogram?
                           : Separate from
 8
 9
         today or including that?
               MR. OGINSKI: Separate from
10
11
         today.
12
                           : Back then.
13
         Q Back in
         A I believe we signed the lab.
14
     We eventually did get the report and {\bf I}
15
     believe I signed it.
16
         Q And tell me how it was that you
17
18
     reviewed that report, as opposed to Dr.
            ?
19
20
         A It was in the pile of labs that
```

23 Q And if Dr. had ordered 24 this test to be done, is there any

I usually would get at the beginning of a day, to go through and sign off on.

21

, N.P.

36

2 assigned to you to review or as opposed

3 to going back to Dr.

4 A No, we all signed off on labs.

5 Q And if Dr. had left and

6 was no longer working at Dr.

7 office, who would then have gotten her

8 lab results to review?

9 A One of us. One of the

10 providers.

25

1

11 Q Which would be who?

12 A Either myself or -- at that

13 time, myself or Dr.

14 Q Were there any other GYNs

15 working in that office, besides Dr.

16

17 A No.

19 written to Dr. , do you see that?

20 A Yes.

21 Q And when it comes into the

22 office, tell me what happens with a lab

23 result, a diagnostic test result like

24 this?

1

25 Does it go specifically to him

37

, N.P.

2 or is it checked to see who ordered this

3 test; how does it work?

4 : You want to know

5 the path of the paper once it enters

6 the office?

7 MR. OGINSKI: Yes.

8 A In , all labs were put in a

- 9 pile to be signed off of, regardless of
- 10 who sent the person to get the testing
- 11 done.
- 12 Q Now, according to this
- 13 particular report, which is dated
- 14 , your signature appears
- 15 at the bottom?
- 16 A Correct.
- 17 Q And the date that you reviewed
- 18 it appears to be
- 19 correct?
- 20 A Correct.
- 21 Q Are there any findings in this
- 22 report to -- is this a normal breast
- 23 sonogram report?
- 24 A Yes.
- ${\tt 25}$  Q Is there anything abnormal in

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 this report, in your opinion?
- 3 : Objection to
- 4 form.
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q Under the recommendation, it
- 7 says, "Clinical management of palpable
- 8 lump."
- 9 What does that mean to you?
- 10 A That the patient should
- 11 follow-up on the lump that she palpated.
- 12 Q Now, after you reviewed this
- 13 particular report, did you contact the
- 14 patient in anyway?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q What was your understanding of
- 17 how the patient was notified of the
- 18 results of this test?
- 19 A That a normal letter would have

- 20 been sent to her by
- 21 Q And when you spoke to
- 22 almost a month later, on
- 23 , did you ask
- 24 whether she had received what you call, a
- 25 normal letter, from the

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 , about her test result?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q How was to know what
- 5 clinical follow-up to do, if
- 6 did not send a letter indicating
- 7 the test result for the breast sonogram
- 8 was normal?
- 9 A Dr. had sent her to do a
- 10 sono, a mammo and see a breast
- 11 specialist. So those were the
- 12 recommendations given by Dr.
- 13 Q I'm sorry, my question wasn't
- 14 clear.
- 15 Based upon the radiologist's
- 16 interpretation of the breast sonogram,
- 17 which says, "Clinical management of
- 18 palpable lump," let's assume for a moment
- 19 that the imaging center,
- 20 , did not send the patient any
- 21 letter about the results and said, go
- 22 back to your gynecologist who referred
- 23 you, for the results, how was
- 24 supposed to know what this clinical
- 25 management of palpable lump, what was she

40

1 , N.P.

2 supposed to do next; how was she supposed

- 3 to get that information?
- 4 A I don't know the answer to
- 5 that. I'm not sure what you're asking.
- 6 Q In other words, I'll ask it a
- 7 different way.
- 8 We know that Dr. made
- 9 recommendations of testing to be done for
- 10 the patient?
- 11 A Correct.
- 12 Q Sonogram, mammogram and breast
- 13 surgery evaluation. We have her notes.
- 14 We have her testimony about that.
- 15 now goes to the radiology
- 16 facility to have the breast sonogram
- 17 done. If they don't tell her the
- 18 results, they said, listen, you have to
- 19 go back to your gynecologist to get the
- 20 results, radiology facility sends the
- 21 breast sono report to your office, nobody
- 22 contacts about this result, how is
- 23 supposed to know what those results
- 24 are?

25 A She can call. I mean, I --

- , N.P.
- 2 that's why we have the problem book, so
- 3 we can follow-up with patients who are
- 4 supposed to go to outside facilities to
- 5 get things done.
- 6 Q Now, the problem book was
- 7 designed for what purpose?
- 8 A To keep track of patients that
- 9 we need to follow-up with.
- 10 Q Such as a patient with a breast
- 11 mass?
- 12 A Correct.
- 13 Q And what happens if you don't

- 14 follow-up with somebody like that?
- 15 A Just in general what happens?
- 16 Q In general, yes.
- 17 A I don't know.
- 18 Q In other words, the purpose of
- 19 the follow-up notebook is to keep track
- 20 of patients with a potentially
- 21 significant problem, if they don't go for
- 22 additional treatment or testing; correct?
- 23 A Yes.
- 24 Q Do you know how it was that
- 25 name got entered into this book

- , N.P.
- 2 or why?

- 3 A The common practice is for the
- 4 provider to tell the front to put them in
- 5 the book and write what needs to be
- 6 followed up with.
- 7 Q And how would the office know
- 8 whether any of those tests or
- 9 recommendations had actually been
- 10 followed through and done?
- 11 A The provider follows up on it
- 12 and let's them know, let's the front,
- 13 , whoever has the book, what
- 14 happened with the follow-up.
- 15 Q So let's go through this. So
- 16 is told by Dr. to have a
- 17 sonogram, a mammogram and breast surgery
- 18 evaluation?
- 19 A Uh-huh.
- 21 composition notebook?
- 22 A Uh-huh.
- ${\tt Q}$   ${\tt Q}$  We know she did go for the
- 24 breast sonogram?

1 , N.P.

- 2 Q Does that information, when the
- 3 report comes in, get entered into the
- 4 composition book and checked off, saying
- 5 okay, has done one of these things?
- 6 A I don't do the book myself, so
- 7 I just let them know when something --
- 8 for example, this sticky that had
- 9 given me, I then reported back to ,
- 10 what I had heard from the patient.
- 11 Q Who checks off the fact that
- 12 these tests or these recommendations were
- 13 done?
- 14 A The -- or , whoever
- 15 has the book in the front.
- 16 Q How would they know that any of
- 17 those diagnostic tests had been done?
- 18 : I think she just
- 19 explained, with the sticky and write
- 20 a note.
- 21 Q Let's say went for the
- 22 breast sonogram, does somebody get
- 23 notified in your office, okay, the
- 24 patient has gone for this test, now we're
- 25 going to check it off?

44

L , N.P.

- 2 A No, I can't speak to that,
- 3 other than they tell me to follow-up with
- 4 the patient. And then I tell them that I
- 5 did follow-up with the patient and this
- 6 is what I heard.
- 7 Q When you spoke to on
- 8 did you know that this

- 9 breast sonogram report had come into the
- 10 office and that you had reviewed it as of
- 11
- 12 A No.
- 13 Q Can you please look at that
- 14 report?
- 15 A Sure.
- 16 Q Is the report,
- 17 based upon your experience as a nurse
- 18 practitioner and reviewing and
- 19 interpreting the results that are written
- 20 here in this breast sonogram report, is
- 21 there anything in this report to indicate
- 22 that lump was interpreted as
- 23 being a cyst?
- 24 A It doesn't say that
- 25 specifically.

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 Q Is there anything in this
- 3 report to suggest or indicate that the
- 4 breast lump that went in to be
- 5 evaluated on her left breast, was a
- 6 benign cyst?
- 7 A It does not say those words,
- 8 no.
- 9 Q Is there anything in this
- 10 report to suggest to you, as a nurse
- 11 practitioner with 13 years experience,
- 12 that this patient had any type of a cyst
- 13 in her left breast?
- 14 A No.
- 15 Q Did you ever tell
- 16 that this report showed that she had a
- 17 cyst in her left breast?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Did you ever tell that

- 20 this report indicated she had a benign
- 21 cyst?
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q Did you ever tell during
- 24 your conversation on , that
- 25 the sonogram report showed that she had a

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 normal breast sonogram?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q Did you ever discuss with
- $\,$  on  $\,$  , that she needed to have
- 6 her breast clinically followed up or
- 7 managed?
- 8 A I told her she needed to do the
- 9 other follow-up recommendations.
- 10 Q And what, if anything, did she
- 11 say to you in response to that?
- 12 A Okay.
- ${\tt 13}$  Q And did you discuss with her,
- 14 who she was going to see for the breast
- 15 management or breast follow-up?
- 16 A No.
- 17 Q Did you have a knowledge or an
- 18 understanding as to who she was
- 19 recommended to see for that evaluation
- 20 for her breast?
- 21 A I can't remember.
- ${\tt 22} \qquad {\tt Q} \qquad {\tt At} \ {\tt the} \ {\tt time} \ {\tt that} \ {\tt you} \ {\tt spoke} \ {\tt to}$
- 23 , did you have a conversation about
- $\,$  24  $\,$  the specific breast surgeon that she was
- 25 recommended to see?

47

1 , N.P.

2 A Yes. I just wanted to read her

```
3
     note.
                    DR.
                                 (phonetic), consult
     had been recommended.
 5
             Now, I understand you just
 6
                         note from
      reviewed Dr.
 8
               Yes.
         Α
 9
         Q
               What date is that?
10
11
         Q
               But before reviewing that
     note -- I'm sorry.
12
13
               During your conversation with
14
                           did you
     specifically mention that breast
15
16
     surgeon's name?
             I can't remember.
17
               Did you ever tell
18
         Q
                                       she did
     not need to go for a breast surgery
19
20
     evaluation?
21
22
               Did you ever tell
                                      she did
         Q
     not need to go for a mammogram, based
23
24
     upon the breast sonogram result?
25
               No.
                                             48
                                  , N.P.
 1
 2
               If you had told
                                      that she
```

did not need to go for a mammogram based 3 upon the breast sonogram results, would 4 5 you agree that would be a violation of the standard of care for what you as a 7 nurse practitioner would do? 8 Δ Yes. 9 Q Why? 10 Because I'm looking back at the note from the previous provider, that was 11 what was recommended. 12 13 And if you were to then give

- 14 the patient advice to disregard what the
- 15 doctor recommended, you agree that would
- 16 be a violation of the standard of care?
- 17 A Correct.
- 18 Q And the same question, if you
- 19 had told she did not need to have a
- 20 breast surgery follow-up, in light of the
- 21 breast sonogram findings, would you agree
- 22 that that would be a departure from good,
- 23 standard practice?
- 24 A Yes.
- 25 Q And would that be for the same

- , N.P.
- 2 exact reason you just told me about?
- 3 A Yes.

- 4 Q Did you learn from anybody in
- 5 your office, before this lawsuit was
- 6 started, that at some point after
- 7 had the breast sonogram, she called the
- 8 office to make a follow-up appointment,
- 9 as she had been instructed to do by Dr.
- 10 ?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Did you learn from anybody in
- 13 the office, that when made a
- 14 follow-up phone call to the office, she
- 15 was informed that Dr. was no
- 16 longer working at the office and in fact,
- 17 had gone out on maternity leave, are you
- 18 aware of that?
- 19 A No, I wasn't aware she called
- 20 the office.
- 21 Q When Dr. had left the
- 22 office at sometime after  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1$
- 23 were her patients informed that she
- 24 was no longer at the office, whether

1 , N.P.

2 reason?

3 A Yes.

4 Q What were they told?

5 A I don't know.

6 Q Did Dr. ever return to

7 work back in Dr. 'office?

8 A No.

9 Q By the way, you are an employee

10 of Dr.

11 A Yes.

12 Q Did you learn from anybody in

13 your office, that when called the

14 office to make a follow-up appointment

15 and was told that Dr. was no

16 longer working there because of maternity

17 and that she could see Dr. , did

18 you learn from anybody, that

19 preferred not to see a male physician,

20 rather only a female physician?

21 A No.

22 Q Now, looking at other

23 lab reports in the chart, there is also a

24 blood work report, dated -- blood work

25 was collected , do you

51

1 , N.P.

2 see that?

3 A Yes.

4 Q And your initials appear there

5 as well?

6 A Yes.

7 Q And the date is

8 ; correct?

- 9 A Yes.
- 10 Q Now, based upon your review of
- 11 that particular test, is there any
- 12 abnormality on this test?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q And from what you've told me
- 15 earlier, is it correct that there would
- 16 be no call directly made to the patient,
- 17 based upon a normal report like this?
- 18 A Correct.
- 19 Q How would the patient know that
- 20 the blood tests that she just had done,
- 21 were normal?
- 22 A They call our office.
- Q Who is "they"?
- 24 A The patient calls the office.
- 25 Q Who tells them to call the

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 office for the results?
- 3 A I tell my patients to call
- 4 after they get the blood work done.
- 5 Q And when they call the office
- 6 to get results, is there one dedicated
- 7 person who will then give the results?
- 8 A Usually the provider that has
- 9 seen them.
- 10 Q For example, if it's Dr.
- 11 and she ordered blood work, she would be
- 12 the one to give the patients the results?
- 13 A Correct.
- 14 Q And if she's not there, you
- 15 said one of the other providers, you or
- 16 Dr. , would tell them?
- 17 A Yes.
- 18 Q Did you have a conversation
- 19 with , after , but

20 before , about this

21 particular blood test?

22 A No.

23 Q If you had a conversation with

24 about the blood test, this normal

25 blood result, would you have made a

53

1 , N.P.

2 notation in the chart about your

3 conversation?

4 A Usually, yes.

5 Q And how would that appear?

6 Would it appear on the blood test result

7 or in a telephone conversation note in

8 the form of a sticky or something else?

9 A In , everything was done on

10 paper. So if there was a message from

11 the patient, she called regarding

12 results, I would make a note on whatever

13 telephone triage paper, that I had spoken

14 with the patient regarding her results.

15 Q And in your review of this

16 patient's chart, did you see any other

17 notation about a phone call you had with

18 , other than the one you've told me

19 about?

20 A No.

21 Q On the next page, there is

22 another test, also dated

23 and your signature appears there?

24 A Correct.

25 Q Can you tell me, is there

54

1 , N.P.

2 anyway for you to tell whether that was

```
3 also looked at the same day as the blood
```

- 4 work?
- 5 A Most likely they were together,
- 6 since it's page two of three.
- 7 Q Now, there is another result,
- 8 which is Pap test done on ,
- 9 , tell me about the notations that
- 10 appear on the bottom of this page?
- 11 A Somebody wrote that a letter
- 12 was sent on , it looks like
- 13 , ' and then signed. And this
- 14 looks like somebody's signature on the
- 15 side.
- 16 Q Can you identify whose
- 17 signature appears on the bottom right?
- 18 A I think it's Dr.
- 19 Q And the letter sent
- 20 , do you know what that refers
- 21 to?
- 22 A The Pap letter, with her
- 23 results, was sent to her.
- 24 Q And whose signature appears
- 25 there?

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 A .
- 3 Q Do you know who that signature
- 4 is?
- 5 A I don't know.
- 6 Q And is this a normal or
- 7 abnormal test result?
- 8 A Normal.
- 9 Q And do you keep a copy, when I
- 10 say "you," does your office keep a copy
- 11 of the letter that's sent to the patient
- 12 about this test result?
- 13 A I believe, yes.

```
14
         Q
               And in your review the chart,
15
     did you see the letter?
16
          Α
               I don't remember looking for
      it.
17
18
         Q
                And what would the letter say?
19
                Your Pap was normal.
          Α
               And would it be on office
20
          Q
21
     letterhead?
22
         Α
23
         Q
               Would there any be instructions
     on what to do next, if anything?
24
25
          Α
                No.
                                               56
                                , N.P.
 1
 2
         Q
               Did you ever speak to Dr.
                 about this patient?
 3
 5
                Do you know a radiologist,
         Q
                                     ?
 6
 7
          Α
               No.
 8
         Q
                When you spoke to
 9
                    did you know that Dr.
     on
                had evaluated the breast lump that
10
11
     she had in her left breast?
12
                              : She said she
          reviewed the chart before that, is
13
14
          that what you mean?
15
               I can see
                                      note.
               In her note, does it indicate
16
         Q
      that the breast mass that was palpated,
17
18
     was an irregularly shaped mass?
               That's what her note says.
19
                Can you be specific as to what
20
          Q
```

22

23

specifically she wrote?

Α

"Left breast, 12 o'clock,

irregularly shaped mass, not painful, no

discharge, not fixed chest wall."

1 , N.P.

- 2 what's after that?
- 3 A No.
- 4 Q Would you agree that an
- 5 irregularly shaped breast mass, is not a
- 6 cyst?
- 7 A I can't make that
- 8 determination.
- 9 Q Would you agree that a cyst is
- 10 usually round and not irregularly shaped?
- 11 A Usually.
- 12 Q When informed you that
- 13 the radiology facility,
- 14 , had told her that she had a
- 15 benign cyst in her left breast, did you
- 16 correlate that information with Dr.
- 17 clinical observation of
- 18 having an irregularly shaped mass?
- 19 A No
- 20 Q How long would you say that
- 21 your conversation with was on
- 22
- 23 A Thirty to 45 seconds.
- 24 Q And did you ever speak to
- 25 again after that date?

Е0

, N.P.

- 2 A No.
- 3 Q Did you ever see her
- 4 personally, in person, in your office?
- 5 A No.
- 6 Q Did you ever speak to Dr.
- 7 about , at any time up
- 8 until this lawsuit was started?

```
9
               No.
10
               Did you ever speak to Dr.
           , at any time after
11
12
                , up until today?
13
               Did you review any deposition
14
         Q
15
     transcripts in preparation for today, any
16
      testimony that's been given in this case?
17
               No.
               Did you review any medical
18
         Q
19
     literature in preparation?
20
               I want you to take a look at
21
         Q
     the photocopy of a note that's been
22
23
     provided by your attorney.
24
               Can you tell me what that note
25
     is?
```

59 , N.P. 1 2 3 Before reading it, just tell me 4 what is the note; who is it by; who 5 writes such a note? 6 : Can we mark 7 this? 8 MR. OGINSKI: Sure, sorry. : It's actually 9 10 already part of the original chart as 11 marked, but I have no problem with 12 marking it today. 13 MR. OGINSKI: Plaintiff's Exhibit 1. 14 15 [The document was hereby marked as Plaintiff's Exhibit 1, for 16 17 identification, as of this date.] 18 This note, can you read it, 19 please?

```
20 A called," I assume
```

- 21 it's , but it says , "called on
- 22 patient, . They canceled a
- 23 test, call them," and a phone number.
- 24 Q Who is
- 25 A She was a medical assistant.

1 , N.P.

- 2 Q Do you know what this note
- 3 refers to?
- 4 A No idea.
- 5 Q The date that appears up there,
- 6 what date is it, can you read that?
- 7 A .
- 8 Q Are you able to tell me whether
- 9 that refers to or some other
- 10 date?
- 11 A No.
- 12 Q Can you glean anymore
- 13 information about what that note says and
- 14 what it means?
- 15 A No.
- 16 Q Do you know what test they're
- 17 referring to?
- 18 A No.
- 19 Q Do you know what was canceled,
- 20 why it was canceled?
- 21 A No.
- 22 Q The phone number, does that
- 23 refresh your memory as to who it might
- 24 be?
- 25 A I don't call the labs.

61

1 , N.P.

2 Q I'm only asking if you know.

```
3 A No, I don't.
```

- 4 Q Now, in addition to a hard copy
- 5 chart, back in , did your
- 6 office have computerized records for
- 7 patients?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q In , other than Dr.
- 10 , Dr. , yourself, were
- 11 there any other healthcare providers
- 12 working there, nurse practitioner,
- 13 midwives, anybody else?
- 14 A I don't think so, no.
- 15 Q Do you have a memory as to how
- 16 long Dr. worked in that office?
- 17 A She was there when I started in
- 18 , but I don't know how long she had
- 19 been there. I can't remember.
- 20 Q Now, you had mentioned earlier
- 21 that when you review breast sonogram
- 22 reports, you had never seen one that
- 23 discussed clinical follow-up needed.
- 24 Looking at the breast sonogram
- 25 report of , where it says,

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 "Clinical management of palpable lump,"
- 3 under their recommendation, what does
- 4 that suggest to you?
- 5 A That the patient should
- 6 follow-up on this lump.
- 7 Q And what's the risk to the
- 8 patient if they don't?
- 9 A I can't say. The sonogram was
- 10 given a negative score in the impression.
- $\,$  11  $\,$   $\,$  So to me, it does not imply that there is
- 12 much concern.
- 13 Q Now, on the bottom last line of

```
14 the report, it says, "A negative imaging
```

- 15 workup should not deter or delay the
- 16 clinical evaluation of a palpable
- 17 abnormality," do you see that?
- 18 A Yes.
- 19 Q Do you agree with that?
- 20 A Yes.
- 21 Q Why?
- 22 A If somebody has palpated
- 23 something abnormal, they should continue
- 24 to do follow-up on it, if needed.
- 25 Q And what's the risk to the

- , N.P.
- 2 patient if they don't go for further
- 3 follow-up, in light of a negative breast
- 4 sonogram?

- 5 A It could be something more
- 6 serious.
- 7 Q And if that more serious
- 8 problem is not diagnosed and treated,
- 9 what is the possible effect to the
- 10 patient, if any?
- 11 A Well, it could be something --
- 12 if left untreated and it's something
- 13 serious, it could become even more
- 14 serious.
- 15 Q And what could be the most
- 16 serious problem that you can imagine as a
- 17 nurse practitioner, that a breast lump
- 18 can be?
- 19 A Cancer.
- 20 Q Do you agree that the earlier a
- 21 breast cancer is diagnosed and treated,
- 22 the better possibilities are for
- 23 prognosis of the patient?
- 24 A Yes.

64

1 , N.P.

2 on , if she did not tell

- 3 you that the radiology facility informed
- 4 her that she had a normal sonogram, it
- was just a benign cyst, how would you
- 6 have learned of the results of her breast
- 7 sonogram report?
- 8 A I would have called
- 9 and asked for the report.
- 10  $\,$  Q And assuming that they had then
- 11 sent you the report and reviewed it, what
- 12 would your impression have been?
- 13 A Just on the report alone?
- 14 Q Just on the report.
- 15 A That everything was fine.
- 16 Q And when you would then get in
- 17 touch with the patient again, to let her
- 18 know what the results were, what would
- 19 you have told her?
- 20 A  $\,$  If I looked at her chart, I
- 21 would have seen that she needed to do
- 22 more follow-up.
- 23 Q And if you had not looked at
- 24 the chart and just had the sonogram
- 25 report, what would you have told her?

65

1 , N.P.

2 In other words, if you didn't

- 3 know what Dr. plan of treatment
- 4 was, you didn't know what the history
- 5 was, you just had the report?
- 6 A Just based solely on the
- 7 report, I would have said everything
- 8 looked fine.

```
9
               MR. OGINSKI: Thank you very
10
         much.
                             : I have a couple
11
12
         of questions.
13
               Can you mark this sonogram
         report and the third page, the sticky
14
         note, as Defendant's Exhibits A and
15
16
17
                [The documents were hereby
         marked as Defendant's Exhibits A and
18
19
         B, for identification, as of this
20
         date.]
               MR. OGINSKI: Off the record.
21
22
                [At this time, a discussion was
23
         held off the record.]
24
     FURTHER EXAMINATION BY
     MR. OGINSKI:
25
```

66 1 , N.P. 2 In the composition notebook, 3 where information is recorded about , can you read that for me, please, 4 5 the notation next to her name, next to 6 breast mass? Α ", 7 spoke to patient and said cyst." 8 9 What does that mean? 10 That I spoke to the patient and the patient said it was a cyst. 11 12 Could that be interpreted to mean that you told the patient it was a 13 14 cyst? 15 I suppose. MR. OGINSKI: Thank you. 16 17 EXAMINATION BY 18 19 Q My name is

20 I represent

21 have a couple of my own questions and

- 22 some follow-up based on your prior
- 23 answers.
- 24 I want you to take a look at
- 25 what has been marked as Defendant's

67

1 , N.P.

- 2 Exhibit A, which is the sonogram report.
- 3 Can you tell me anywhere in that report,
- 4 does it document that a lay letter was
- 5 sent to the patient regarding the
- 6 results?
- 7 A No.
- 8 Q Up at the top right-hand
- 9 corner, there is a notation, do you see
- 10 that?
- 11 A Yes.
- 12 Q Do you know what that is or
- 13 whose handwriting that might be?
- 14 A I think it says , which
- 15 stands for , meaning she's a
- 16 patient.
- 17 Q Do you know who made that
- 18 notation?
- 19 A I don't.
- 20 Q I think you said you looked at
- 21 this report on
- 22 A Yes, I signed off on it.
- 23 Q And after looking at the
- 24 report, did you contact the patient?
- 25 A No.

68

1 , N.P.

2 Q So the first time you contacted

3 her was on, I think you said Yes. 5 Q And that was at the request of 6 7 Α Correct. 8 And again, just because I Q 9 wasn't clear of some of your answers, prior to contacting the patient on 10 11 , you had reviewed her chart? 12 When I received the sticky to contact the patient, that's when I 13 14 reviewed her chart. And would that have included 15 the breast sonogram report marked as 16 17 Defendant's Exhibit A? This was not in the chart, no. 18 After you reviewed it on 19 Q September 8th, what would have happened 20 21 to the sonogram report? Α It would go in a stack to be 22 filed. 23 24 And as you sit here today, you 25 have a recollection that the report you 69 1 , N.P. 2 signed off on, on was not in the patient's chart by 3 ? 4 5 Correct. How long does it take for 6 7 reports, such as a sonogram report, to get filed in a patient's chart? 8 I don't know. I didn't do the 9

10

11

12

filing. Q

Was there a custom and practice

with the group back in , as to how

long it took to file reports?

- 14 A I don't know.
- 15 Q At the time you reviewed the
- 16 patient's chart, were you aware that she
- 17 had undergone a breast sonogram?
- 18 A No, that's why I was calling
- 19 her.
- 20 Q Have you ever worked for Bay
- 21
- 22 A No.
- 23 Q To your knowledge, has any of
- 24 the staff at Dr. ' office ever
- 25 worked at

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 A Not that I know of.
- 3 Q Is it fair to say then, you
- 4 don't really know what their custom and
- 5 practice is with respect to notifying
- 6 patients concerning test results?
- 7 MR. OGINSKI: Objection.
- 8 A Yes.
- 9 Q That's a fair statement?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q At the time you looked or
- 12 reviewed the breast sonogram report back
- 13 in September, other than having it sent
- 14 to be filed, did you make any attempts to
- 15 contact the patient, regarding what was
- 16 noted in the report?
- 17 A No.
- 18 Q If you saw a notation regarding
- 19 clinical management of the palpable lump,
- 20 and that a negative imaging workup should
- 21 not deter or delay clinical evaluation of
- 22 a palpable abnormality, if you were to
- 23 see that in a report, what, if anything,
- 24 would you do?

1 , N.P.

- 2 the impression was negative and the
- 3 BI-RAD was Category 1, I would not do
- 4 anything.
- 5 Q In the face of that notation in
- 6 the report?
- 7 A Correct.
- 8 Q As you sit here today, are you
- 9 aware from any source, as to who notified
- 10 from
- 11 , as to the results of the breast
- 12 sonogram?
- 13 A No.
- 14 Q I was a little unclear from
- some of your responses as to, at what
- 16 point does a patient's name enter into
- $\ensuremath{\mathsf{17}}$   $\ensuremath{\mathsf{what's}}$  called the problem book, if they
- 18 have a palpable mass.
- 19 Does the Patients name get
- 20 entered into the book at the time she
- 21 happens to present and it's either
- 22 discovered or the patient reports  $\mathfrak a$
- 23 palpable mass in the breast or at some
- 24 other point?

1

25 A Once you've seen a patient and

72

, N.P.

- 2 if there is something you need to make
- 3 sure you follow-up on with the patient,
- 4 you let the front desk know to put her
- 5 name in the book at the time of visit.
- 6 Q So custom and practice then, of
- 7 Dr. ' group, would have been
- 8 around the time Dr. saw her in

- 9 August, her name would have been entered
- 10 into the book?
- 11 A Correct.
- 12 Q Would we expect to see
- 13 name in the book more than one time?
- 14 A If there was -- no, I don't --
- 15 Q The entry of name in
- 16 the book, I'm not going to mention the
- 17 patient's name above her, but there is a
- 18 date for the patient above of
- The patient whose
- 20 name is listed below is noted
- 21 , yet I don't see  $\mathfrak a$
- 22 date for
- 23 Is there anyway to tell when
- 24 name got entered into the book?
- 25 A No, because I did not see the

- 1 , N.P.
- 2 patient, Dr. did. So I don't know
- 3 when she told to put her name in.
- 4 Q Was Dr. still at the
- 5 practice as of
- 6 A I don't remember.
- 7 : Off the record.
- 8 [At this time, a discussion was
- 9 held off the record.]
- 10 Q , is she an
- 11 employee of Dr. group?
- 12 A , that's not her last
- 13 name.
- 14 Q I'm sorry, I thought you said
- 15 her last name --
- 16 A No, that's the first word,
- 17 called.
- 18 Q  $\,\,$  Is she still an employee of the
- 19 group?

20 A No. 21 Q Do you know when she was first 22 employed with the group? A She worked for them for a long 23 time and then she retired. 25 Q Do you know when she retired? 74 1 , N.P. 2 I can't tell you the exact 3 date. 4 Was it in or sometime Q 5 after? After that. 7 Q What was her last name, ? 8 , I forget her last name. I forget her last name, I'm sorry. 10 : Thank you. : No questions. 11 12 (Time noted: 11:37 a.m.) , N.P. 14 15 16 Subscribed and sworn to before me 17 this day of , 20\_\_\_. 18 19 20 21 22

24 25

1

PAGE

3	MR. OGINSKI 6
4	66
5	
6	EXHIBITS
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8	PLAINTIFF'S DESCRIPTION PAGE
9	Exhibit 1 Four-page document 59
10	DEFENDANT'S
11	Exhibit A Sonogram report 65
12	Exhibit B Sticky note 65
13	(Attorneys retained the exhibits.)
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1	76
2	CERTIFICATION
3	CERTITICATION
4	
5	I, JENNIFER BRENNAN, a Shorthand
6	Reporter and a Notary Public, do hereby
7	certify that the foregoing witness, was
8	duly sworn on the date indicated, and
9	that the foregoing is a true and accurate
10	transcription of my stenographic notes.
11	I further certify that I am not
12	employed by nor related to any party to

13 this action.

```
15
16
17
18 JENNIFER BRENNAN
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
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1
           ERRATA SHEET
VERITEXT/NEW YORK REPORTING, LLC
 2
 3
       CASE NAME: VS.
DATE OF DEPOSITION: MAY 9, 2013
WITNESS' NAME: , N
                                                , N.P.
 5
       PAGE/LINE(S)/
                              CHANGE
                                                     REASON
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20
                                                , N.P.
21
22
       SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS____DAY
23
```

\_\_, 20\_\_.

NOTARY PUBLIC