

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE AT KNOXVILLE

THOMAS NEELY, Plaintiff

v.

FOX OF OAK RIDGE, INC. and BENJAMIN H. CURD, Defendants

APPEARANCES:

ROBERT J. ENGLISH, MICHAEL C. INMAN, Attorneys for the Plaintiff, Thomas Neely

CLINT J. WOODFIN, Attorney for the Defendant, Fox of Oak Ridge, Inc. and Benjamin H. Curd

DEPOSITION OF THOMAS M. KOENIG, M.D. November 30, 2005

NO. 3:05-CV-304 PHILLIP/GUYTON

1 client and Mr. Inman's client, Thomas Neely. And if you 2 would throughout this deposition, testify based on 3 reasonable medical certainty or probabilities. Will you do 4 that for us? 5 A I will. 6 Q Okay. Dr. Koenig, where do you practice 7 medicine? 8 A I practice in Knoxville, Tennessee, on 9 Kingston Pike. 10 Q What's your specialty? 11 A Orthopedic surgery. 12 Q Doctor, what does that mean, what does 13 that entail? 14 A It involves the study and treatment of 15 bones, muscles, tendons, ligaments, discs and nerves. 16 Q Okay. And where did you take your 17 medical training, sir? 18 A Most of my medical training was in 19 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. I went to a medical school 20 there called Hahnemann Medical University, and then from 21 there I did a residency for five years at Hahnemann Medical 22 University, and then I did an optional one year in 23 Washington, D.C. with George Schonholtz in arthroscopy. 24 Q Okay. Doctor, where do you do your 25 surgeries here in Knoxville when you do surgery?

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Table with 3 columns: WITNESS, NAME, PAGE. Includes THOMAS M. KOENIG, M.D. with sub-entries for Direct, Cross, and Redirect Examination.

EXHIBITS

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1 A I've got privileges at a fair number of 2 facilities. Most of my surgery is done out west, the more 3 major cases at Parkwest. There are a bunch of surgery 4 centers like Parkwest Surgery Center Tower, Knoxville 5 Surgery Center, Fort Sanders West. It may be easier to 6 tell you where I don't have privileges, but primarily out 7 here in the west. 8 Q Okay. Is that for convenience sake? 9 A Yes. Whenever I first came here in 10 1992, I didn't mind the travel so much and thus I had 11 privileges at Children's, I'm sorry, East Tennessee 12 Children's, U.T., Regional, and as your practice matures, 13 you don't have the time to run around to the various 14 different places, so it's more or less stayed out here in 15 the west. 16 Q Doctor, as a matter of maturity, how 17 long have you practiced, been licensed to practice 18 orthopedic surgery in the state? 19 A In the state, since '92. 20 Q Okay. Are you Board certified, sir? 21 A Yes, sir. And recently recertified. 22 Q Okay. What does it mean to be Board 23 certified, Dr. Koenig? 24 A When you sit for your Boards the first 25 time, you undergo a rigorous written exam with several

1 The videotaped deposition of THOMAS M. KOENIG, 2 M.D., taken by agreement of counsel, for any and all 3 purposes allowable under the Federal Rules of Civil 4 Procedure, before DENISE M. HOOD, Court Reporter and Notary 5 Public in and for the State of Tennessee at Large, on the 6 30th day of November, 2005, at the office of the witness, 7 11808 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee.

8 It is agreed that the reporter may swear the 9 witness, take the deposition stenographically, and 10 afterwards reduce the same to typewritten form when the 11 completed deposition may be used in the above-styled cause.

12 The plaintiff does not waive any objections until 13 the time of the trial. All formalities are expressly 14 waived as to caption, certificate, transmission, and the 15 reading and signing of the deposition by the witness.

16 THOMAS M. KOENIG, M.D., 17 having been first duly sworn, was examined and 18 deposed as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MR. ENGLISH:

20 Q Would you state your name for the 21 record?

22 A Sure. Thomas Martin Koenig, M.D.

23 Q Dr. Koenig, my name is Bob English, as 24 you know, and I'm here to ask you some questions about my

1 hundred questions. I no longer remember, but I'm sure it's 2 four or five hundred questions, and you have to pass those. 3 On the assumption that you've passed those, then the Board 4 queries you as to what you actually do as far as practice 5 goes, and you have to simulate for them and gather all the 6 x-rays, all the operative reports for about a six-month 7 period of your time and they have the ability to scrutinize 8 that. They ask you to come to Chicago and you carry a 9 bunch of bags with x-rays and all kinds of stuff, MRI's, 10 your operative reports, and then they grill you. You sit 11 for about eight hours and they ask you anything and 12 everything and hopefully you pass, and if you pass, then 13 you are, at that time, Board certified. I think ever since 14 1988, if you're certified, you're certified for a limited 15 time, ten years, then you had to re-sit for Boards again. 16 Q And you did so? 17 A Yes, sir. I think I'm good through the 18 year 2014, if I'm not mistaken. I have a CV, if you'd 19 like. 20 Q Doctor, we have a copy of your CV. 21 Would you hand that to the doctor and see if that's the 22 most recent CV he has, Ms. Court Reporter? 23 A Yes. That is correct. And I'm 24 recertified through the 31st of December, 2014. 25 MR. ENGLISH: Let's make your CV Exhibit

1 understand a psychiatric technician would need to
2 potentially have to subdue potentially unruly psychiatric
3 patients, would have to assist them in feeding, have to
4 assist them in lifting them on occasions to beds and
5 commodes and/or move them from one place to another for CAT
6 scans and things of that nature.

7 Q Doctor, when you last saw him the 15th
8 of November, did you give him a permanent no duty, no work
9 status with certain impairments?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q Restrictions?

12 A Yes, sir.

13 Q What were those restrictions? And I'll
14 ask you to refer back to your July 6 note, the specifics of
15 that, sir.

16 A On July 6th, it was written for no
17 repetitive bending, stooping, squatting, or lifting greater
18 than fifteen pounds. He should be allowed frequent changes
19 in position.

20 Q Are those still the restrictions that
21 you had him on permanently at this time, sir?

22 A If I can, sir, allow me just a few
23 seconds to check my notes.

24 Q Okay.

25 A No. In effort -- I should state that

1 benefits of that study, the physician can use his thumb and
2 try various limited duty attempts. Sometimes he
3 undershoots, sometimes he overshoots. It was my opinion
4 that he could not tolerate the fifteen pounds of repetitive
5 lifting that we attempted to get him to do in July, so I
6 overshot the mark in July; I asked him to do too much.

7 Q So you think he should have been
8 restricted from doing anything from the first time that you
9 saw him up until the time that you last saw him here in
10 November?

11 A No, sir. I think it was appropriate to
12 try it in July. I don't think that there was an error in
13 medical decision making. I think that I just was overly
14 hopeful that he would be able to do that.

15 Q When you say he is not able to do
16 anything, are you saying he needs to sit in a bed for a
17 complete day and not do any activity at all?

18 A What I'm saying is that this gentleman
19 probably can't even tolerate sitting in bed for eight
20 hours. He's going to have to sit, stand. He's going to
21 have to move his self to a recliner. He's going to have to
22 walk, he's going to have to pace. In that regard, no to
23 your question, simply, and similarly at the workplace do I
24 think he could sit and just answer a phone, I don't think
25 so. He's going to have to stand, he's going to have to

1 those were amended further to whereby he was placed on no
2 duty on the 15th of November, 2005.

3 Q What does that mean, sir, in your
4 opinion?

5 A Meaning that I really don't think he
6 could do anything. When I saw him in the office, let's
7 say, on the 15th of November, I saw him for forty-five
8 minutes to an hour and during that time the man just could
9 not sit or lay still or stand still. He was constantly
10 having to change positions. I don't think that he would
11 have been employable in that regard. He would have been a
12 distraction to any workplace with as frequently as he had
13 to move to try to keep himself in some semblance of
14 comfort.

15 Q Doctor, do you have an opinion as to
16 whether or not this man will suffer pain in the future as a
17 result of these injuries?

18 A Yes, sir. I think that that
19 unfortunately also is permanent, and that's the reason why
20 we sent him to a pain management consultation through Dr.
21 Browder.

22 Q Will he require medications to alleviate
23 the pain of this wreck and injuries in the future?

24 A Most likely.

25 Q Have you done everything that you can

1 sit, he's going to have to lie down for a short period of
2 time. I know that I couldn't employ him in a clerical
3 position in my office, and I certainly couldn't employ him
4 to do any manual labor in my office.

5 Q Do you have any training as a vocational
6 assessor?

7 A Indirect training in the fact that I
8 have substantial -- how can we put it, in the fact that I
9 deal with a lot of vocational reports. I discuss with
10 vocational rehabilitation counselors various options and
11 how they orthopedically or mechanically can be potentially
12 adjusted or improved, so I have a fair bit of experience,
13 but, no, sir, I'm not a vocational rehabilitation
14 counselor.

15 Q Do you have any training in what jobs
16 are available for disabled people in this area?

17 A I have a good general idea. Do I have
18 the ability to know that at this particular time that one
19 company "X" has a job that's opened, no, sir.

20 Q Is that general ability similar to what
21 any of us who have an understanding as to what work
22 involves has?

23 A I would think it would be similar to
24 what any other Board certified orthopedic surgeon has in
25 the area.

1 for him at this time from an orthopedic standpoint, Doctor?

2 A Yes, sir.

3 MR. ENGLISH: I believe that's all.

4 CROSS EXAMINATION

5 BY MR. WOODFIN:

6 Q Dr. Koenig, my name's Clint Woodfin, and
7 I represent Mr. Curd and Fox of Oak Ridge in this lawsuit.
8 Mr. Curd was driving the vehicle that rear-ended Mr.
9 Neely's vehicle. If I understood your testimony correctly
10 about his restriction, you have changed the restriction
11 that you had him on since July of 2004 as of 11-15-05; is
12 that correct?

13 A That was correct. I just want to make
14 sure I heard the dates correctly. He was -- we attempted
15 to put him back to work on a limited duty basis, very
16 limited, in July, and I responded as such to Mr. English's
17 question. He said as of July, what was his duty status,
18 and then on the 15th of November, 2005, he was placed on no
19 duty.

20 Q And that original restriction didn't
21 change until November 15th, 2005, correct?

22 A That's correct. Please understand that
23 this gentleman has never had a Functional Capacity
24 Evaluation, which would objectively describe exactly what
25 this gentleman can and cannot do. When you don't have the

1 Q No more or no less?

2 A No more, no less.

3 Q And as far as whether or not you've ever
4 actually performed a vocational analysis on someone, I
5 think that would be no?

6 A That is correct.

7 Q You mentioned his inability to do these
8 activities, and I'm thinking that's primarily based on the
9 complaints of pain that he's relating to you, correct?

10 A Based on the complaints of pain coupled
11 with the objective findings on MRI, CT scan and plain films
12 as well as a physical examination that's repetitively done.

13 Q There are no objective indications which
14 would lead you to conclude that if he tried to do anything,
15 he would hurt himself, are there?

16 A Not within the fifteen pounds that he
17 was allowed to do back in July. I don't think that the
18 fifteen pounds would hurt him. I just don't think that he
19 was able to do the fifteen pounds.

20 Q And that's still the same in November of
21 2005, when you last saw him? There's nothing objective
22 that you can point to that says if this man tries to do
23 something, he's going to hurt himself?

24 A I think if he tried to lift more than
25 fifteen pounds again, I think that he would fail again.

1 You're correct, I don't have a Functional Capacity
2 Evaluation, which I think you're alluding to, which is an
3 objective test to state no, he can lift eleven pounds but
4 he can't lift twelve pounds. There are studies that are
5 out there that can do that.

6 Q His complaints of pain and the pain
7 behaviors that he exhibits to you are, to a certain degree,
8 subjective based on what he's revealing to you by his
9 actions, correct?

10 A To a certain degree. Yes, sir.

11 Q And you couple that with what you see on
12 the test and come up with your opinions?

13 A Yes, sir.

14 Q And I think you stated to Mr. English
15 the tests by themselves don't give a complete picture; you
16 have to tie that in with what he tells you about his
17 condition?

18 A Without a doubt, history is important,
19 as is the physical exam. They teach you in medical school
20 you don't treat an MRI, you don't treat a chart, you treat
21 a patient.

22 Q So what the patient is telling you about
23 his condition and about what he's feeling is an import to
24 you in giving an opinion about the causation, is it not?

25 A It is certainly a factor. Yes, sir.

1 Q In this case, given the findings on the
2 test which don't show any broken bones or any acute
3 abnormalities, the history is what allows you to tie it
4 into this accident; is that correct?

5 A It does show some equivocal acute
6 abnormalities, and those are clearly labeled as equivocal.

7 Q In your report, you say they're
8 equivocal because they might be related to degenerative
9 changes, they might be related to the accident?

10 A Yes, sir.

11 Q And then you listen to the patient
12 telling you I was not hurting before this accident, I'm
13 hurting now, and that's how you tie it in?

14 A Yes, sir. That is a key factor.
15 However, please understand despite the fact that he told me
16 he did not hurt in regard to his neck, I tried to be fair
17 to the patient as well as fair to your client, as fair to
18 Mr. English, as fair to the system. I've got to meet my
19 maker somewhere down the pike, and I try to be fair to him,
20 too. And in short, I said to myself, you know what, I
21 don't think that he, the patient, can accurately assess
22 this in regard to his neck as well as I can. I know for a
23 fact, or I should state within a reasonable degree of
24 medical certainty, this is your field, not mine, that he
25 probably did not have full range of motion of his neck

1 given the pathology that was there before, and what I tried
2 to do was discount what he told me appropriately and
3 validly and do it in concordance with the A.M.A. Guides as
4 they direct and come up with a number that hopefully does
5 adequately represent this gentleman's impairment as he
6 stands on that day with numbers that specifically state how
7 much is attributed to what was preexisting and with numbers
8 that could then be figured out as to what happened through
9 the motor vehicle accident.

10 Q Speaking about his neck, and I think you
11 mentioned it, you say as he's standing here this day --

12 A On the 15th of November. I apologize.

13 Q I understand what you're saying. The
14 range of motion, though, can differ from day to day, can it
15 not?

16 A It can.

17 Q And I think you're looking at your
18 chart, and you can correct me if I'm wrong, his range of
19 motion was actually greater on the visit previous than it
20 was on the visit of November 15, 2005, in his neck.

21 A In certain areas, you're correct. In
22 certain areas, you're incorrect. For instance, thirty
23 degrees of rotation to the left of midline is maintained on
24 both days. Please also understand the following: Whenever
25 a patient is seen on days other than an impairment rating

1 day, the surgeon is going to use his thumb. I'm going to
2 sit there and say that's approximately thirty degrees worth
3 of flexion. I'm not going to use other instruments like
4 inclinometers and goniometers to test. Whenever I'm
5 actually asked to tabulate, to calculate what an impairment
6 is, I'm going to do it by the book and I'm going to sit
7 there and say, look, let's do it with an actual measuring
8 stick, not my thumb. That also would account for the minor
9 differences because we're talking primarily about ten
10 degrees plus or minus, and that would probably be either
11 due to some slight change in the patient or the difference
12 between my thumb and an actual ruler or what we call a
13 goniometer or inclinometer.

14 Q How much degree motion does he lack in
15 his neck?

16 A Well, on which day, sir?

17 Q Let's say on the last day.

18 A On the last day. All right, fine. I
19 would be glad to do that for you. Allow me to just look at
20 my notes. All right. On the 15th of November, the patient
21 was able to tolerate twenty degrees of flexion. I'll try
22 to show you what roughly twenty degrees of flexion is. I
23 do have to tell you that I can't put an inclinometer and
24 read it on myself, so I'm giving you a rough approximation,
25 but in short, and I'm going to turn myself to the side so

1 you can see this, this is roughly twenty degrees of
2 flexion, this would be thirty and this would be forty and
3 this would be fifty, fifty would be full. So in short,
4 he's missing the terminal or the last thirty degrees of
5 flexion. In regard to extension, this is neutral. He
6 tolerates about twenty degrees of extension. That means
7 he's missing thirty, forty, fifty and sixty degrees of
8 normal extension, so he's missing that amount.

9 Q And in performing these tests, I think
10 you've referenced it in your notes, you're asking the
11 patient to move his neck, and he's doing it according to
12 his effort as much as he can.

13 A He's doing it to the best of his
14 ability. He's doing it multiple times, and the maximum
15 amount of movement is registered.

16 Q And I think you put in your notes that
17 he was making complaints to you of, "Oh, no, that's it, I
18 can't do any more"?

19 A Yes, sir. And, of course, that means
20 that you push within a certain level, and I mean I'm not
21 here to crack a whip on the gentleman. I'm going to try to
22 report this as accurately as possible, and you are correct
23 in the fact that he did verbalize that he didn't want to go
24 further than it hurt.

25 Q And that's a day he knows he's being

1 evaluated for impairment that you're doing that obviously?

2 A That is correct. I do believe he knew
3 that he was being evaluated that day.

4 Q His effort is not something that you can
5 measure objectively, can you?

6 A A Functional Capacity Evaluation does a
7 pretty good job of measuring that.

8 Q When you're asking him to move his neck
9 up and back, there's no way you can objectively measure how
10 much effort he's giving?

11 A No way that I can on that limited exam
12 in the office. That's correct. However, again, in an
13 effort to give you the most complete answer, a Functional
14 Capacity Evaluation does have the ability to determine
15 effort, validity of effort and thus also validate the
16 score.

17 Q Some of the other measures of validity
18 are history that's given to you and its consistency with
19 other history as well as his effort and tests that you give
20 him from an orthopedic standpoint, correct?

21 A Yes, sir.

22 Q In his first visit with you, he talked
23 about the accident. I believe he told you that he'd broken
24 his tailbone back in 1982; is that right?

25 A I do remember a reference to that.

1 Q Show the jury, if you would, what we're
 2 talking about there.
 3 A Sure. If you don't mind, I'm going to
 4 turn this around this way. This is his tailbone. I'll
 5 turn it to the side because I think that that's going to
 6 show up better for the camera. The tailbone typically is
 7 broken here at the junction of the sacrum -- I'll do it
 8 this way. Here's where your sacrum ends. This is your
 9 coccyx. Usually there's a fracture right here whereby this
 10 then tips forward and comes up this way. That's what we're
 11 talking about.
 12 Q And you don't know how that happened?
 13 A No, sir, nor did I really need to
 14 evaluate that. That was taken as part of his history, and
 15 that is if you will, sir, effectively an orthopedic mile
 16 away from where his other pathology is. You can't be off
 17 this much as an orthopedic surgeon and not get in trouble.
 18 So in short, this ends up -- he could have told me he
 19 fractured his great toe as well and it impacted his
 20 impairment the same way. He received neither additional
 21 nor a discount in his impairment rating because of that
 22 1982 fracture down here.
 23 Q If he had had some trauma which caused a
 24 jarring of his spine, would that not be important to you?
 25 A All history would be important. Yes,

1 visit that he was treating with Dr. Degnan and that he was
 2 giving complaints that, quote, "Went in one ear and out the
 3 other?"
 4 A Yes, sir. That's his history.
 5 Q Did you also review the report from the
 6 emergency medical technicians that saw him at the scene of
 7 the accident?
 8 A I know that I reviewed the emergency
 9 room report per se. If you have a reference for me to --
 10 Q Let's stick with that emergency room
 11 report. I think that's what my notes said, and I just
 12 misread it.
 13 A Okay.
 14 Q Again, looking at that with regard to
 15 the lack of loss of consciousness, there was also a note
 16 that there's minimal damage to his vehicle in that report
 17 as well?
 18 A Yes. That's what I noted in the
 19 emergency room reports dated the 12th of July, 2004.
 20 Q He then saw you ten days later on the
 21 22nd of October of 2004, correct?
 22 A Yes, sir.
 23 Q You made a finding there that there was
 24 a bruise on his back that you didn't see on the first
 25 visit, if I read that correctly.

1 sir.
 2 Q And that could possibly impact the
 3 status of his discs or the level of degeneration that was
 4 present that you saw?
 5 MR. ENGLISH: I'm going to object to
 6 possibly. Many things could possibly impact it.
 7 Q Assuming that to be correct that he had
 8 some trauma to his tailbone, you would expect that there
 9 would be some trauma on the discs, would you not?
 10 A Not necessarily. I think I could tell
 11 you that there would be a fair number of patients that
 12 could have a coccyx fracture and have no other spinal
 13 pathology, but you are correct in the fact that if you had
 14 enough trauma to break a bone here, it's possible to have
 15 enough trauma elsewhere to do damage elsewhere. Yes, sir.
 16 Q Especially a man this size?
 17 A Yes, sir.
 18 Q Someone who's three hundred and thirty,
 19 three hundred and fifty pounds, if there was trauma
 20 sufficient to crack their tailbone, that would also have an
 21 impact on their lower lumbar spine, would it not?
 22 A If you could use the word possible, I
 23 could say yes.
 24 Q And you just don't know because you
 25 didn't find out one way or the other?

1 A Yes, sir.
 2 Q Okay. Any explanation for that?
 3 A Sometimes it will take a little bit
 4 longer for bruising to occur, especially on a gentleman
 5 this large. If the bruising occurred at a muscle that was,
 6 let's say, an inch and a half deep, sometimes it takes
 7 awhile for the bloody pigment, the biliverdin and the
 8 hemoglobin to penetrate up to the skin. That's one
 9 possibility.
 10 Q Three months and ten days?
 11 A I agree with you. That's probably
 12 pushing it.
 13 Q So there's really no explanation why
 14 that bruise is there?
 15 A No, sir.
 16 Q Okay. I think you had wanted to start
 17 treating him for his neck in November of 2004, and I think
 18 you explained that you did one part at a time and finally
 19 then the neck came available, but it looked like November
 20 was when you first wanted to do that?
 21 A Yes, sir. That would be typical that we
 22 would add one body part per visit.
 23 Q In looking at your notes, it looks like
 24 for whatever reason that day, there was a child
 25 accompanying him that was running around in the examining

1 A That's correct.
 2 Q Were you shown pictures of the vehicles
 3 in this accident?
 4 A I believe I was, and if I did, I would
 5 have referenced that. If you'll give me thirty seconds --
 6 Q I believe you were -- okay.
 7 A I apologize that I don't have the
 8 immediate recall to say yea or nay. I do believe I was
 9 shown pictures. However, if I was shown pictures, I do
 10 believe I would have recorded them as such. I've looked
 11 through the first two notes that I had where you would
 12 think that he would have presented them on the first or
 13 second office visit, and I don't have that recorded. So
 14 I'm sorry that my memory cannot definitively state whether
 15 or not I was shown pictures of the motor vehicle accident.
 16 Q Okay. Back again to that first visit,
 17 he also told you that he lost consciousness at that time,
 18 did he not?
 19 A Yes, sir.
 20 Q You have reviewed the emergency room
 21 record either from receiving it from the attorney or from
 22 Mr. Neely himself that noted in that record that he did not
 23 lose consciousness?
 24 A That's also correct.
 25 Q He was reporting to you on that first

1 room, and you didn't get to work on his neck that day?
 2 A Yes, sir.
 3 Q He had had his MRI for his low back at
 4 that time, and that's when you noted he had this congenital
 5 defect in his lumbar spine?
 6 A Yes, sir.
 7 Q And that was there before the accident,
 8 as you've told us?
 9 A Yes, sir.
 10 Q Whether or not that was giving him a
 11 problem, you only know based on the history that he gave
 12 you that it was not problematic, and that's what you're
 13 basing that on?
 14 A Yes, sir.
 15 Q You started focusing on the neck in
 16 December of 2004, and you said you doubted there was any
 17 cervical radiculopathy present, correct?
 18 A Yes, sir.
 19 Q And that means there wasn't anything
 20 pressing on the nerves from what you saw on the MRI which
 21 would cause him pain and numbness in his arms?
 22 A Yes, sir.
 23 Q But he was making complaints of pain and
 24 numbness in his arms?
 25 A Yes, sir. That would be what we were --

1 or what the A.M.A. Guides would call nonverifiable
 2 radicular pain.
 3 Q He says it hurts or in this case, it's
 4 numb, but you have no way to identify that by test?
 5 A Yes, sir, or that the test that you've
 6 done don't adequately describe what he has.
 7 Q I think you made a note there in
 8 December of 2004 that he was turning his neck to the left
 9 and having numbness in his right arm?
 10 A Yes, sir.
 11 Q And that that's not clinically a finding
 12 in which you could match up, is it?
 13 A Please forgive me for not understanding
 14 the term --
 15 Q It's probably a bad question. If a man
 16 says I'm turning my head to the left and he says that my
 17 right arm is numb, that doesn't make any sense, does it?
 18 A There could be a whole constellation.
 19 You're correct in the fact that that's not the typical
 20 presentation. However, to state that it couldn't happen is
 21 not correct.
 22 Q Anything could happen?
 23 A Yes, sir.
 24 Q But in this case, it wasn't happening on
 25 Mr. Neely?

1 A Yes, sir.
 2 Q Any others besides that?
 3 A Yes, sir. There was -- give me one
 4 second. On the 2nd of November, 2004, it basically says,
 5 "Continue prior limited duty status." That's just a way of
 6 shortcutting it so you don't fill out the paperwork so
 7 much.
 8 Q Sure.
 9 A I apologize for the ton of paperwork
 10 that this gentleman has.
 11 Q Take your time.
 12 A On the 21st of February, 2005, he was
 13 placed again on continued prior limited duty with a
 14 handwritten form, I should say with a form filled out by
 15 hand. Similarly, on the 6th of June, 2005, and then on the
 16 6th of July 2005, it was written in more detail to have no
 17 repetitive bending, stooping, squatting, an allowance for
 18 frequent changes of position, no lifting greater than
 19 fifteen pounds. Does that answer your question?
 20 Q It does, if those are the only written
 21 restrictions that you've given him.
 22 A And then on the 18th of November,
 23 whenever I saw -- wait, on the 18th of November apparently
 24 he may have wanted another form filled out or whatever.
 25 That was three days after I last saw him. It said continue

1 A I don't know that I can state that
 2 nothing was happening with Mr. Neely. What I can state was
 3 that there was no classic presentation that was happening.
 4 Q That's the nice doctor way of saying
 5 that it just didn't make any sense.
 6 A I'm not trying to be a nice doctor. I'm
 7 just trying to be a fair doctor. I apologize --
 8 Q Well, that's the fair doctor way of
 9 saying it just doesn't make any sense?
 10 A I don't believe that was a question, so
 11 I'll just let that go.
 12 Q Would you agree with that statement?
 13 A I have no ability to disagree with that
 14 statement.
 15 Q When you saw him in January, it didn't
 16 seem like anything you were offering this man or telling
 17 him was helping him in any way?
 18 A That's correct.
 19 Q He had a positive Waddell test in
 20 January?
 21 A Yes, sir.
 22 Q Waddell tests are what doctors like
 23 yourself use to see if someone is giving you a symptom that
 24 they shouldn't be giving you based on a test that you're
 25 doing; is that a fair way to say that?

1 the prior limited duty status as referenced to the 15th of
 2 November.
 3 Q So are you continuing what you had
 4 always continued, or are you changing him in July of -- I
 5 mean November? I understood your testimony to be you were
 6 changing it.
 7 A It would be based on what was last
 8 written and last noted and what was last written and last
 9 noted was on the 15th of November, 2005, that he was placed
 10 on no duty and that that was going to be continued.
 11 Q But you didn't write a change for him
 12 where it changed from fifteen pounds with no repetitive
 13 bending, stooping, et cetera?
 14 A On the 15th of November, 2005, you're
 15 correct in the fact that I don't have a document showing
 16 that there was a specific change that was done on that date
 17 on that form. However, I do have a document in more detail
 18 than just handwritten. I have a typewritten report that
 19 shows that it was changed.
 20 Q So do you give this man that report and
 21 these records when he tries to go get a job?
 22 A Typically what's done is -- well, yes
 23 and no. Both are available to him. He can have whatever
 24 he wants. What's typically done is there's a short form
 25 that's filled out by hand and then days later a typewritten

1 A That's a fair way of saying it.
 2 Q And that was occurring with Mr. Neely?
 3 A Yes, sir, on the 12th of January, 2005.
 4 Q I noticed in that record too you almost
 5 put him at maximum medical improvement at that date, if I
 6 saw that correctly.
 7 A Yes, sir, there's a statement that says
 8 because he's not accessing the additional recommended care
 9 or doesn't have the funds to access additional care, that
 10 he may -- I believe it said -- well, I'll just quote it
 11 directly, the patient is made aware that at this time he
 12 may well have reached maximum medical improvement in regard
 13 to the above orthopedic diagnosis.
 14 Q And you hadn't changed his restriction
 15 from fifteen pounds to no duty after July of 2005, had you?
 16 A No, sir.
 17 Q I think you'd actually given him a
 18 written restriction that said no lifting over fifteen
 19 pounds, if I remember correctly?
 20 A On which date? For instance, on the
 21 12th of October 2004?
 22 Q That was the very first time that you
 23 saw him, correct?
 24 A Yes, sir.
 25 Q Correct?

1 report gets generated. Typically what happens, workplaces
 2 demand something quicker. If this had been a workmans'
 3 comp injury, they would want something that day, and we'd
 4 handwrite something. This was not a workmans' comp injury
 5 and thus the staff may have felt, look, there's no urgency
 6 to writing such a form again for him on that date that he
 7 left, because we knew in a few days that it would be
 8 produced on a typewritten record.
 9 Q Your staff knew what you were going to
 10 say?
 11 A Well, hold on for a second. Often they
 12 can from my handwritten notes. However, I don't know how
 13 they would be able to get that from my handwritten notes on
 14 that particular day.
 15 Q I guess what we need to know, Doctor, is
 16 are you telling the Court and jury that there was some
 17 change from July of 2005 to November of 2005, which made
 18 you take this man off of any possible activity that he
 19 would want to engage in?
 20 A Allow me just a moment to try to --
 21 Q Sure.
 22 A -- find a documented answer for that.
 23 What I have, sir, is a patient that I have tried to get
 24 back to work multiple times. I've tried to get him to be
 25 comfortable at work. I've tried to get him to be