

MDL-2049

Jun 03, 2009

**UNITED STATES JUDICIAL PANEL
on
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION**

**FILED
CLERK'S OFFICE**

**IN RE: REGLAN/METOCLOPRAMIDE
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION**

MDL No. 2049

ORDER DENYING TRANSFER

Before the entire Panel: Plaintiffs in ten actions pending in the Western District of Arkansas, Central District of California, Northern District of Georgia, District of Nevada, Eastern District of North Carolina, Western District of Oklahoma, District of South Carolina, Eastern District of Tennessee, and Northern District of Texas (two actions) have moved, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, to centralize this litigation in the District of Nevada.

This litigation currently consists of those ten actions and an action pending in the District of Vermont, as listed on Schedule A.¹ Plaintiff in the District of Vermont action opposes centralization, as do all responding defendants.²

On the basis of the papers filed and hearing session held, we are not persuaded that Section 1407 centralization would serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses or further the just and efficient conduct of this litigation at the present time. The eleven actions at issue do share factual issues as to whether the drug metoclopramide causes neurological injuries (principally, tardive dyskinesia). But there is no single common defendant, and some entities, such as Baxter Healthcare Corp., are named in only one or two actions. Moreover, several of the actions appear to be substantially advanced (five were commenced in either 2006 or 2007). Metoclopramide litigation has a lengthy history, and the record indicates that a significant amount of the common discovery has already taken place. The proponents of centralization have failed to convince us that any remaining common questions of fact among these actions are sufficiently complex and/or numerous to justify Section 1407 transfer at this time. Alternatives to transfer exist that may minimize

Judge Heyburn took no part in the disposition of this matter.

¹ The Panel has been notified of ten additional related actions.

² Actavis, Inc.; Actavis-Elizabeth, L.L.C.; Barr Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Baxter Healthcare Corp.; Duramed Pharmaceuticals, Inc.; Pliva, Inc.; Pliva USA, Inc.; Schwarz Pharma, Inc.; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc.; and Wyeth.

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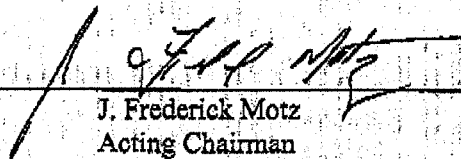
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whatever possibilities there might be of duplicative discovery and/or inconsistent pretrial rulings.³ See, e.g., *In re Eli Lilly and Co. (Cephalexin Monohydrate) Patent Litigation*, 446 F.Supp. 242, 244 (J.P.M.L. 1978); see also *Manual for Complex Litigation, Fourth*, § 20.14 (2004).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the motion, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, for centralization of these eleven actions is denied.

PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION



J. Frederick Motz
Acting Chairman

John G. Heyburn II, Chairman
Kathryn H. Vratil
W. Royal Furgeson, Jr.

Robert L. Miller, Jr.
David R. Hansen
Frank C. Damrell, Jr.

³ We note that most of the plaintiffs currently involved in this litigation have common counsel.

**IN RE: REGLAN/METOCLOPRAMIDE
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SCHEDULE A

Western District of Arkansas

Bettye Fields v. Wyeth, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:08-2079

Central District of California

Patrick J. Proulx, et al. v. Wyeth, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 5:08-613

Northern District of Georgia

Susan Swicegood v. Pliva, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 1:07-1671

District of Nevada

Mary Karen Moretti v. Wyeth, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 2:08-396

Eastern District of North Carolina

Gary Joseph Stoddard, et al. v. Pliva USA, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 4:08-173

Western District of Oklahoma

Susan Schrock, et al. v. Wyeth, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 5:08-453

District of South Carolina

William R. Fisher, et al. v. Mark F. Pelstring, M.D., et al., C.A. No. 4:09-252

Eastern District of Tennessee

James Carden, et al. v. Wyeth, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 3:08-346

MDL No. 2049 Schedule A (Continued)

Northern District of Texas

Wanda Ruth Cousins v. Wyeth Pharmaceutical, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 3:08-310
Martha Pustejovsky v. Wyeth, Inc., et al., C.A. No. 4:07-103

District of Vermont

Ethel Kellogg v. Wyeth, et al., C.A. No. 2:07-82