

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

CHAMBERS OF
CATHERINE C. BLAKE
DISTRICT JUDGE

U.S. COURTHOUSE
101 WEST LOMBARD STREET
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201
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April 27, 2020

MEMO TO COUNSEL

*In re: Smith & Nephew Birmingham Hip Resurfacing (BHR) Hip Implant
Products Liability Litigation, MDL 17-md-2775 – All Tracks*

Dear Counsel:

As you know, the court by standing order has suspended filing deadlines and all but emergency court proceedings through June 5, 2020. By a separate standing order, however, we have approved the continuation of discovery on a case by case basis as needed and consistent with public health guidelines. Parties also may seek to file and brief motions in a particular case.

I appreciate your cooperative efforts to move forward this important MDL litigation over the recent weeks. As the court begins to plan for a gradual resumption of operations, I would like to reinstitute both our regular informal conference calls and our recorded status conferences (although for now they will be conducted remotely by audio link rather than in person). My chambers will reach out to you with proposed dates and times in the next 10-14 days to schedule the initial conference. (If you would like to arrange a call prior to that date, please contact chambers.) My focus for the initial conference would be to discuss any extensions or amendments to the current pretrial and trial schedule in this litigation that may be necessary under current and reasonably foreseeable public health conditions. It seems likely that both the court and counsel will have to rely on available technology to conduct remote proceedings for an extended period of time.

Again, thank you for your cooperation and professionalism under these very difficult circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

/S/

Catherine C. Blake
United States District Judge