

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 09-cv-02433-WDM-KLM

JOEL M. PRITCHETT,

Plaintiff,

v.

I-FLOW CORPORATION, and  
EASTMAN KODAK COMPANY,

Defendants.

---

**ORDER**

---

**ENTERED BY MAGISTRATE JUDGE KRISTEN L. MIX**

This matter is before the Court on **Defendant I-Flow Corporation's Motion to Temporarily Stay All Proceedings** [Docket No. 47; Filed January 27, 2010] (the "Motion"). In the Motion, Defendant I-Flow states that Plaintiff does not oppose the relief requested and that Defendants AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP and AstraZeneca, LP do oppose it. However, Defendants AstraZeneca Pharmaceuticals, LP, and AstraZeneca, LP have been dismissed and are no longer parties to this action. See Docket Nos. 52 & 53. Defendant I-Flow does not state the position of Defendant Eastman Kodak Company, and a review of the docket reveals that Defendant Eastman apparently has not been served with the Complaint. For the reasons set forth below, the Court **GRANTS** the Motion.

Defendant I-Flow requests a stay of proceedings with only limited continued production of documents pending a decision by the Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation ("MDL") on a Motion to Transfer filed in *In re Ambulatory Pain Pump-Chondrolysis Products Liability Litigation* ("MDL No. 2139"). If the MDL Panel grants the Motion to Transfer, this

and other similar actions will be consolidated into one multidistrict litigation proceeding pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407.

“The Court has broad discretion to stay proceedings as incidental to its power to control its own docket.” *Lundy v. C.B. Fleet Co., Inc.*, No. 09-cv-00802-WYD-KLM, 2009 WL 1965521, at \*1 (D. Colo. July 6, 2009) (citations omitted); see also *String Cheese Incident, LLC v. Stylus Shows, Inc.*, No. 02-cv-01934-LTB-PAC, 2006 WL 894955, at \*2 (D. Colo. Mar. 30, 2006). “As a general rule, ‘courts frequently grant stays pending a decision by the MDL panel regarding whether to transfer a case.’” See *Lundy*, 2009 WL 1965521, at \*1 (quoting *Good v. Prudential Ins. Co. of America*, 5 F.Supp.2d 804, 809 (C.D. Cal. 1998)).

The Court concludes that a partial stay of proceedings, with only limited continued discovery, is appropriate here. The Court first considers whether the interests of the parties would be served by a stay. See *String Cheese*, 2006 WL 894955, at \*2 (balancing prejudice of stay to the non-moving party, the plaintiff, against any undue burden of going forward on defendant). Here, Plaintiff does not oppose Defendant’s request that the Court stay these proceedings with only ongoing production of Plaintiff’s medical records. This relief is apparently in all of the parties’ best interests.

The Court also considers its own convenience, the interests of nonparties, and the public interest in general. See *String Cheese*, 2006 WL 894955, at \*2. None of these factors prompts the Court to reach a different result. The Court finds that granting the stay will promote judicial economy and efficiency. See *Lundy*, 2009 WL 1965521, at \*1-2 (concluding “judicial economy . . . best served by granting a stay pending the MDL Panel’s decision”); *Lilak v. Pfizer Corp., Inc.*, No. 08-cv-02439-CMA-KLM, 2008 WL 4924632, at

\*3 (D. Colo. Nov. 13, 2008) (reasoning stay pending transfer to MDL appropriate because judicial economy best served by case being considered as part of MDL); *Franklin v. Merck & Co., Inc.*, No. 06-cv-02164- WYD-BNB, 2007 WL 188264, at \*2 (D. Colo. Jan. 24, 2007) (finding that pending transfer to MDL “granting a stay would promote judicial economy and help insure consistent pretrial rulings”). Unlike in *Lundy*, *Lilak*, and *Franklin*, here the MDL Panel has not yet determined whether a consolidated MDL proceeding is warranted for these pain pump actions. This fact may decrease the likelihood that the instant action will actually be transferred. However, because the Plaintiff agrees that a stay is appropriate and the Court agrees that awaiting a ruling from the MDL panel will conserve judicial resources and avoid the issuance of rulings on discovery and substantive motions inconsistent with those issued by other federal courts, the Court will enter the stay. See *Rivers v. Walt Disney Co.*, 980 F.Supp. 1358, 1360-62 (C.D. Cal. 1997) (granting stay where motion to transfer and consolidate cases into MDL proceeding pending before MDL Panel and noting that “a majority of courts” have concluded that such a stay appropriate and conserves judicial resources); MANUAL FOR COMPLEX LITIGATION (FOURTH) § 22.35 (2009) (“A stay pending the Panel’s decision can increase efficiency and consistency, particularly when the transferor court believes that a transfer order is likely and when the pending motions raise issues likely to be raised in other cases as well.”). The Court is further persuaded that judicial economy is well-served by a stay because Plaintiff will continue production of his medical records. See *Carolus v. Gen. Elec. Co.*, No. 07-cv-00714-WYD-MJW, 2007 WL 4225802, at \*1 (D. Colo. Nov. 28, 2007)(denying stay only as to production of documents and other written discovery because judicial economy not served by waiting, as production of documents lengthy process and would be necessary

regardless of whether MDL Panel transferred the case). Finally, the Court does not find that this case triggers a compelling nonparty or public interest that requires a different result. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY **ORDERED** that the Motion is **GRANTED**.

IT IS **FURTHER ORDERED** that the case is **STAYED** until such time as the MDL Panel issues an order on the pending Motion to Transfer. Production of Plaintiff's medical records shall continue during this stay of proceedings.

DATED: February 22, 2010 at Denver, Colorado.

BY THE COURT:

s/ Kristen L. Mix  
Kristen L. Mix  
United States Magistrate Judge