

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

SWAYSEY RANKIN,)	
)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	16-CV-3138
)	
DR. BAKER, JEFF KORTE, and,)	
WEXFORD HEALTH SOURCES,)	
INC.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

SECOND MERIT REVIEW OPINION

Plaintiff’s first complaint was dismissed, with leave to replead. (6/10/16 Merit Review Opinion.) The Court assumes familiarity with that opinion. Plaintiff’s amended complaint is now before the Court for a merit review.

Plaintiff alleges that he was being treated with medications in the Stateville Correctional Center for three medical conditions: a “painful dermatological issue that causes blisters, nodules and lesions to form on his head”; knee pain from a prior surgery which causes Plaintiff to limp; and allergies and sinus problems.

(Amended Compl. para 9.) Plaintiff was transferred to the Western

Illinois Correctional Center in February 2015. Plaintiff told the intake person about his conditions, and the intake person assured Plaintiff that Dr. Baker would see Plaintiff in a few days. However, Plaintiff did not see Dr. Baker until the next month at the hypertension clinic. At the hypertension clinic, Dr. Baker refused to treat Plaintiff for his conditions other than hypertension, telling Plaintiff to file health care requests, even though Plaintiff told Dr. Baker that Plaintiff had already tried three times to file health care requests. Over the next six months Plaintiff repeatedly filed health care requests and wrote to Dr. Baker and Warden Korte for medical attention to no avail. During this time Plaintiff experienced “excruciating pain” in his knee and head, “sneezing and coughing up blood,” and painful blisters on his head that ruptured, oozing pus and blood. (Am. Compl. paras. 9, 35.) In late September or early October 2015, Plaintiff was seen by medical staff and provided his previous medications.

At the notice pleading stage, Plaintiff states a plausible Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. A significant delay in providing necessary medical treatment can arise to deliberate indifference if the delay is unjustified and

causes unnecessary pain and suffering. Gil v. Reed, 381 F.3d 649 (7th Cir. 2004)(summary judgment reversed where jury could find delay in treatment caused "many more hours of needless suffering for no reason"). Accordingly, this case will proceed pursuant to the standard procedures.

IT IS ORDERED:

1) Plaintiff's motion for leave to file an amended complaint is granted (8).

2) Pursuant to its merit review of the Complaint under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, the Court finds that Plaintiff states an Eighth Amendment claim for deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. This case proceeds solely on the claims identified in this paragraph. Any additional claims shall not be included in the case, except at the Court's discretion on motion by a party for good cause shown or pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15.

3) This case is now in the process of service. Plaintiff is advised to wait until counsel has appeared for Defendants before filing any motions, in order to give Defendants notice and an opportunity to respond to those motions. Motions filed before

Defendants' counsel has filed an appearance will generally be denied as premature. Plaintiff need not submit any evidence to the Court at this time, unless otherwise directed by the Court.

4) The Court will attempt service on Defendants by mailing each Defendant a waiver of service. Defendants have 60 days from the date the waiver is sent to file an Answer. If Defendants have not filed Answers or appeared through counsel within 90 days of the entry of this order, Plaintiff may file a motion requesting the status of service. After Defendants have been served, the Court will enter an order setting discovery and dispositive motion deadlines.

5) With respect to a Defendant who no longer works at the address provided by Plaintiff, the entity for whom that Defendant worked while at that address shall provide to the Clerk said Defendant's current work address, or, if not known, said Defendant's forwarding address. This information shall be used only for effectuating service. Documentation of forwarding addresses shall be retained only by the Clerk and shall not be maintained in the public docket nor disclosed by the Clerk.

6) Defendants shall file an answer within 60 days of the date the waiver is sent by the Clerk. A motion to dismiss is not an answer. The answer should include all defenses appropriate under the Federal Rules. The answer and subsequent pleadings shall be to the issues and claims stated in this Opinion. In general, an answer sets forth Defendants' positions. The Court does not rule on the merits of those positions unless and until a motion is filed by Defendants. Therefore, no response to the answer is necessary or will be considered.

7) This District uses electronic filing, which means that, after Defense counsel has filed an appearance, Defense counsel will automatically receive electronic notice of any motion or other paper filed by Plaintiff with the Clerk. Plaintiff does not need to mail to Defense counsel copies of motions and other papers that Plaintiff has filed with the Clerk. However, this does not apply to discovery requests and responses. Discovery requests and responses are not filed with the Clerk. Plaintiff must mail his discovery requests and responses directly to Defendants' counsel. Discovery requests or responses sent to the Clerk will be returned unfiled, unless they are

attached to and the subject of a motion to compel. Discovery does not begin until Defense counsel has filed an appearance and the Court has entered a scheduling order, which will explain the discovery process in more detail.

8) Counsel for Defendants is hereby granted leave to depose Plaintiff at his place of confinement. Counsel for Defendants shall arrange the time for the deposition.

9) Plaintiff shall immediately notify the Court, in writing, of any change in his mailing address and telephone number. Plaintiff's failure to notify the Court of a change in mailing address or phone number will result in dismissal of this lawsuit, with prejudice.

10) If a Defendants fails to sign and return a waiver of service to the clerk within 30 days after the waiver is sent, the Court will take appropriate steps to effect formal service through the U.S. Marshal's service on that Defendant and will require that Defendant to pay the full costs of formal service pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4(d)(2).

11) Within 10 days of receiving from Defendants' counsel an authorization to release medical records, Plaintiff is directed to sign and return the authorization to Defendants' counsel.

12) **The clerk is directed to enter the standard order granting Plaintiff's in forma pauperis petition and assessing an initial partial filing fee, if not already done, and to attempt service on Defendants pursuant to the standard procedures.**

13) **The Clerk is directed to enter the standard qualified protective order pursuant to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.**

ENTERED: 10/11/2016

FOR THE COURT:

 s/James E. Shadid
JAMES E. SHADID
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE