

1
2
3
4 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
5 **DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

6
7 DARIN J. FRANKLIN,

8 Plaintiff,

9 vs.

10 TANIA ARGUELLO et al.,

11 Defendants.

3:15-cv-00196-RCJ-WGC

12
13 **ORDER**

14 This is a prisoner civil rights action under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Now pending before the
15 Court is Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration. (ECF No. 41.) For the reasons given herein, the
16 Court denies the motion.

17 **I. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

18 Plaintiff's original Complaint was screened under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. (*See* First
19 Screening Order, ECF No. 9.) In its screening order, the Court dismissed certain claims with
20 prejudice, dismissed certain other claims with leave to amend, and dismissed several defendants
21 from the action.¹ Plaintiff subsequently amended his Complaint. (First Am. Compl., ECF No.
22 22.) The Court screened the First Amended Complaint ("FAC") and permitted all five of its
23 claims to proceed as amended, but dismissed all named defendants with the exceptions of

24

1 For further detail regarding the Court's findings and conclusions, see the Court's first
screening order, ECF No. 9, at 17.

1 Eugene Murguia, Michael Koehn, and Renee Baker. The Court expressly found that Counts I
2 and II of the FAC were sufficiently pleaded only against Murguia; Count III of the FAC was
3 sufficiently pleaded only against Koehn; and Counts IV and V of the FAC were sufficiently
4 pleaded only against Baker. (*See* Second Screening Order, ECF No. 21.)

5 In its initial screening order, the Court dismissed, without leave to amend, a portion of
6 Count IV of the original Complaint, namely, Plaintiff’s Eighth Amendment claim arising from
7 Dr. Michael Koehn’s refusal to prescribe proton pump inhibitors (“PPIs”) or H2 blockers as
8 treatment for Plaintiff’s gastro-esophageal reflux disease (“GERD”). (*See* First Screening Order
9 7–8, ECF No. 9.) Plaintiff had been taking PPIs or H2 blockers (e.g., Prevacid) for about eight
10 years when he decided to stop in mid-2012, based on the medical advice of a Dr. Mar at Warm
11 Springs Correctional Center concerning the potential harmful side-effects of long-term use. From
12 that time on, Plaintiff limited medication for his GERD to high-dose calcium antacids. About a
13 year and a half later, Plaintiff began experiencing an increase in symptoms, including severe
14 pain, and asked Dr. Michael Koehn at Ely State Prison to resume Plaintiff’s prescription for PPIs
15 or H2 blockers. Koehn refused, and rather kept prescribing antacids. Koehn continued to refuse
16 to prescribe Plaintiff the medication he requested for a period of roughly seven months. In its
17 first screening order, the Court narrowly dismissed Plaintiff’s claim to the extent it was based on
18 Koehn’s refusal to prescribe PPIs or H2 blockers, but allowed the claim to proceed with respect
19 to certain periods of time during which Koehn did not prescribe any medication for Plaintiff’s
20 GERD. (*See id.* at 9–10.)

21 Plaintiff now asks the Court to reconsider its prior order dismissing with prejudice his
22 Eighth Amendment claim arising from Koehn’s refusal to prescribe PPIs or H2 blockers.

23 ///

24 ///

1 **II. LEGAL STANDARDS**

2 Granting a motion to reconsider is an “extraordinary remedy, to be used sparingly in the
3 interests of finality and conservation of judicial resources.” *Carroll v. Nakatani*, 342 F.3d 934,
4 945 (9th Cir. 2003) (quoting 12 James Wm. Moore et al., Moore’s Federal Practice § 59.30[4]
5 (3d ed. 2000)). “Reconsideration is appropriate if the district court (1) is presented with newly
6 discovered evidence, (2) committed clear error or the initial decision was manifestly unjust, or
7 (3) if there is an intervening change in controlling law.” *Sch. Dist. No. 1J, Multnomah Cnty., Or.*
8 *v. ACandS, Inc.*, 5 F.3d 1255, 1263 (9th Cir. 1993). In some cases, “other, highly unusual,
9 circumstances” may also warrant reconsideration. *Id.*

10 However, a motion to reconsider “may not be used to raise arguments or present evidence
11 for the first time when they could reasonably have been raised earlier in the litigation.” *Carroll*,
12 342 F.3d at 945; *see also United States v. Lopez-Cruz*, 730 F.3d 803, 811–12 (9th Cir. 2013).
13 Nor is reconsideration to be used to ask the court to rethink what it has already thought. *See*
14 *Walker v. Giurbino*, 2008 WL 1767040, *2 (E.D. Cal. 2008); *United States v. Rezzonico*, 32 F.
15 Supp. 2d 1112, 1116 (D. Ariz. 1998). “A motion to reconsider is not a second chance for the
16 losing party to make its strongest case or to dress up arguments that previously failed.” *United*
17 *States v. Huff*, 782 F.3d 1221, 1224 (10th Cir.), *cert. denied*, 136 S. Ct. 537 (2015).

18 Motions to reconsider are committed to the discretion of the trial court. *See Combs v.*
19 *Nick Garin Trucking*, 825 F.2d 437, 441 (D.C. Cir. 1987); *Rodgers v. Watt*, 722 F.2d 456, 460
20 (9th Cir. 1983) (en banc). To succeed, a party must set forth facts or law of a strongly convincing
21 nature to induce the court to reverse its prior decision. *See, e.g., Kern–Tulare Water Dist. v. City*
22 *of Bakersfield*, 634 F. Supp. 656, 665 (E.D. Cal. 1986), *aff’d in part and rev’d in part on other*
23 *grounds*, 828 F.2d 514 (9th Cir. 1987).

24 ///

1 **III. ANALYSIS**

2 Plaintiff has failed to present any newly discovered evidence, to demonstrate how the
3 Court’s prior dismissal upon screening was clear error or manifestly unjust, or to show that there
4 has been an intervening change in controlling law. Therefore, Plaintiff has failed to satisfy his
5 burden on a motion to reconsider, and on this basis alone Plaintiff’s motion must be denied.

6 Plaintiff argues that the Court erred in denying leave to amend Count IV of the original
7 Complaint. In its initial screening order, the Court found that Dr. Koehn’s refusal to prescribe
8 PPIs or H2 blockers for Plaintiff’s GERD “represent[ed] a disagreement in the method of
9 treatment that cannot be said to constitute a total lack of treatment amounting to deliberate
10 indifference in the constitutional sense.” (Screening Order 10, ECF No. 9.) Therefore, the Court
11 dismissed this portion of Count IV without leave to amend.

12 Here, Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate that the Court’s prior conclusions were wrong,
13 and failed to show that the deficiencies in Count IV of the original Complaint could be cured by
14 amendment. During the period of time that Plaintiff was requesting PPIs or H2 blockers but Dr.
15 Koehn was alternatively prescribing antacids, Koehn was providing treatment to Plaintiff, albeit
16 in a manner Plaintiff did not agree with. Moreover, Plaintiff’s pleadings indicate that Koehn’s
17 prescription of antacids was a continuation of the treatment plan recommended by Plaintiff’s
18 prior physician, Dr. Mar. Therefore, Plaintiff has not alleged facts to support any inference that
19 Koehn’s refusal specifically to prescribe PPIs or H2 blockers was in conscious disregard of
20 Plaintiff’s medical needs. Indeed, Koehn was prescribing medication for Plaintiff’s condition—
21 medication also prescribed by Plaintiff’s prior physician. A dispute over the right approach to
22 treatment may sound in medical malpractice, but does not, without more, rise to the level of
23 deliberate indifference. *See Estelle v. Gamble*, 429 U.S. 97, 106 (1976) (“Medical malpractice
24 does not become a constitutional violation merely because the victim is a prisoner.”); *Toguchi v.*

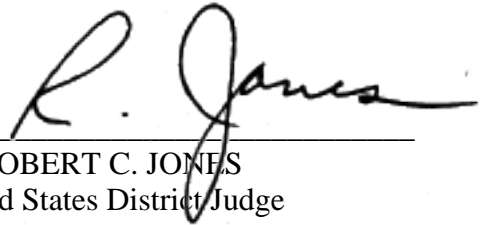
1 *Chung*, 391 F.3d 1051, 1059–60 (9th Cir. 2004) (stating that “a difference of medical opinion . . .
2 cannot support a claim of deliberate indifference”).

3 Accordingly, the Court declines to reconsider its dismissal with prejudice of that portion
4 of Count IV of the original Complaint arising from Koehn’s refusal to prescribe PPIs or H2
5 blockers.² To the extent Plaintiff has re-pleaded this claim in the FAC, such amendment is
6 improper and without effect. Plaintiff may not resurrect previously dismissed claims by re-
7 pleading them in contravention of the Court’s order.

8 **CONCLUSION**

9 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff’s motion to reconsider (ECF No. 41) is
10 DENIED.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.

12
13 
14 _____
15 ROBERT C. JONES
16 United States District Judge

17 DATED: This 17th day of February, 2017.
18
19
20
21
22

23 _____
24 ² However, as noted in the Court’s screening order, Plaintiff’s Eighth Amendment claim may proceed with respect to periods of time during which Koehn was not prescribing any medication to treat Plaintiff’s GERD.