IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

**CHARLESTON DIVISION** 

IN RE:

ETHICON, INC.,

PELVIC REPAIR SYSTEM

PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION

MDL No. 2327

THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO:

Fuchs v. Ethicon, Inc., et al.

Civil Action No. 2:14-cv-18522

MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

Pending before the court is a Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice filed by Ethicon, Inc. and Johnson & Johnson (collectively "Ethicon"). [ECF No. 14]. Plaintiff has not responded, and the

deadline for responding has expired. Thus, this matter is ripe for my review.

Ethicon's Motion arises from this court's Order [ECF No. 13], entered on October 9, 2015,

denying Ethicon's Motion for Sanctions, including monetary penalties, dismissal and any other

sanction deemed appropriate by the court, for failure to file a Plaintiff Profile Form ("PPF") in

compliance with Pretrial Order # 17. In reaching this decision, I relied on Wilson v. Volkswagen

of America, Inc., 561 F.2d 494 (4th Cir. 1977), in which the Fourth Circuit identified four factors

that a court must consider when reviewing a motion to dismiss on the basis of noncompliance with

discovery. (See Order [ECF No. 13], at 4–6 (applying the Wilson factors to Ms. Fuchs's case)).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The *Wilson* factors are as follows:

(1) Whether the noncomplying party acted in bad faith; (2) the amount of prejudice his noncompliance caused his adversary, which necessarily includes an inquiry into the materiality of the evidence he failed to produce; (3) the need for deterrence of the particular sort of

noncompliance; and (4) the effectiveness of less drastic sanctions.

Mut. Fed. Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Richards & Assocs., Inc., 872 F.2d 88, 92 (4th Cir. 1989) (citing Wilson, 561 F.2d at 503–06).

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Concluding that the first three factors weighed in favor of sanctions as requested by Ethicon, I

nevertheless declined to award the requested sanction of \$100 for each day the plaintiff's PPF was

late because it would offend the court's duty under Wilson's fourth factor, which is to consider the

effectiveness of lesser sanctions. In recognition of this duty, I gave the plaintiff "a final chance to

comply with discovery." (*Id.* at 6–7). I afforded her 30 business days from the entry of the Order

to submit to Ethicon a completed PPF, with the caveat that a failure to do so "will result in dismissal

with prejudice upon motion by the defendant." (Id. at 7). Despite this warning, Ms. Fuchs has

again refused to comply with this court's orders and did not provide Ethicon with her PPF within

the 30-day period. Consequently, Ethicon moved to dismiss the case with prejudice.

Because the less drastic sanction instituted against Ms. Fuchs has had no effect on her

compliance with and response to this court's discovery orders, which she has continued to blatantly

disregard, I find that dismissal with prejudice is now appropriate. For the reasons explained in my

October 9, 2015 Order [ECF No. 13], Ethicon's Motion to Dismiss with Prejudice [ECF No. 14]

is **GRANTED**. This case is **DISMISSED** with prejudice. The court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to send

a copy of this Order to counsel of record and any unrepresented party.

ENTER: December 29, 2015

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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