IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA CHARLESTON DIVISION

IN RE: LIPITOR (ATORVASTATIN CALCIUM) MARKETING, SALES)) MDL No. 2:14-mn-02502-RMG)
PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION) CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER NO. 45
) This Order relates to all cases.
))
)

The Parties' Motions to Seal (Dkt. Nos. 1057, 1058, 1061, 1062)

The parties have filed for leave to file certain exhibits under seal and to file other exhibits redacted. These documents are exhibits to Plaintiffs' Responses to Pfizer's motions to exclude certain expert testimony. (See Dkt. Nos. 1046, 1053). The motions to seal were docketed on ECF in a manner that discloses their nature as a motion to seal, which provided public notice of the motions, and no objections have been filed. Each motion also explains why less drastic alternatives to sealing are not appropriate, and the Court agrees. To the extent that redaction is available as an alternative, redacted exhibits have been filed instead.

The Court finds that, for the reasons stated in Pfizer's motions, (Dkt. Nos. 1061, 1062), the public's right of access to these documents is outweighed by the competing interests of patient safety, harm to Pfizer of public disclosure of its confidential research, development or commercial information, and the potential to chill corporate deliberations and discussions regarding the safety and efficacy of medications. *See Ashcraft v. Conoco, Inc.*, 218 F.3d 288, 302 (4th Cir. 2000) (describing procedures for a district court to follow when sealing judicial documents). Therefore,

The parties' motions to seal (Dkt. Nos. 1057, 1058, 1061, 1062) are **GRANTED**. The Court approves the redacted exhibit as filed. Three of the documents have already been filed under seal. (Dkt. No. 1054). However, one document was filed publically and not under seal. Therefore,

The Clerk is directed to seal Dkt. No. 1046-2, the Expert Report of Edwin Gale.

AND IT IS SO ORDERED.

Richard Mark Gergel

United States District Court Judge

September ______, 2015 Charleston, South Carolina