

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

In re:)
) Chapter 11
NOVAN, INC., *et al.*,¹)
) Case No. 23-10937 (LSS)
Debtors.)
) (Jointly Administered)
)
) **Re: D.I. 12, 39**
)

**FINAL ORDER (I) AUTHORIZING PAYMENT OF PREPETITION CLAIMS OF
CERTAIN CRITICAL VENDORS AND (II) GRANTING RELATED RELIEF**

Upon the *Debtors' Motion for Interim and Final Orders (I) Authorizing Payment of Prepetition Claims of Certain Critical Vendors and (II) Granting Related Relief* (the "Motion")² of the above-captioned debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "Debtors") for entry of an interim order (the "Interim Order") and a final order (this "Final Order") pursuant to sections 105(a), 363(b), 503(b)(9), 507(a), 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code, Bankruptcy Rules 6003(b) and 6004, and Local Rule 9013-1(m): authorizing, but not directing, the Debtors to make payments toward the prepetition fixed, liquidated and undisputed claims of Critical Vendors, all as more fully described in the Motion; and this Court having found that (i) this Court has jurisdiction over the Debtors, their estates, property of their estates and to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware, dated February 29, 2012, (ii) this Court may enter a final order consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution, (iii) this is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C.

¹ The Debtors in these chapter 11 cases, along with the last four digits of the Debtors' federal tax identification number (if applicable), are: Novan, Inc. (7682) and EPI Health, LLC (9118). The corporate headquarters and the mailing address for the Debtors is 4020 Stirrup Creek Drive, Suite 110, Durham, NC 27703.

² Capitalized terms used but not otherwise defined herein shall have the respective meaning ascribed to such terms in the Motion.



§ 157(b), (iv) venue of the Motion in this District is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409, and (v) no further or other notice of the Motion is required under the circumstances; and this Court having reviewed the Motion and having heard the statements in support of the relief requested in the Motion at a hearing before this Court, as applicable; and this Court having granted the interim relief requested in the Motion [D.I. 39]; and having determined that the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and the First Day Declaration establish just cause for the relief granted in this Final Order, and this Court having found and determined that the relief sought in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors' estates, their creditors, and other parties in interest; and after due deliberation, sufficient cause appearing therefor;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. The Motion is GRANTED on a final basis as set forth herein.
2. The Debtors are authorized, but not directed, to pay the Critical Vendor Claims as described in the Motion in amounts not to exceed \$1,641,000.00 in the aggregate; provided that the Debtors shall provide no less than one (1) business day prior notice to counsel to the DIP Lender (as defined in the DIP Order) which shall be provided through electronic mail and set forth details of such payments; provided further that the Debtors shall provide no less than one (1) business day prior notice of any payments on account of Critical Vendor Claims of EPI Health, LLC to counsel to the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors (the "Committee") which shall be provided through electronic mail and set forth details of such payments.
3. The Debtors shall provide counsel to the Committee and the DIP Lender the list of Critical Vendors and payments on account of Critical Vendor Claims made during the interim period and that the Debtors intend to make upon final approval of this Order, and shall provide counsel to the Committee and the DIP Lender notice of any additional creditors added to

the list of Critical Vendors, which such notice shall be provided at least two (2) business days prior to any payments to such additional creditors.

4. The Debtors shall maintain a matrix or schedule of amounts directly or indirectly paid, subject to the terms and conditions of this Final Order, including the following information: (a) the names of the payee; (b) the amount of the payment; (c) the category or type of payment; (d) the Debtor or Debtors that made the payment; and (e) the payment date. The Debtors shall provide a copy of such matrix or schedule to the U.S. Trustee, the Committee, and counsel to the DIP Lender within seven (7) days following the conclusion of each calendar month, beginning upon entry of this Order.

5. The Debtors are further authorized, but not directed, to undertake appropriate efforts to enter into Trade Agreements with the Critical Vendors if the Debtors determine, in consultation with the DIP Lender and the Committee (the "Notice Parties"), that such an agreement is necessary to their postpetition operations, including, without limitation on the following terms:

- (a) The amount of such Critical Vendor's estimated claim, after accounting for any setoffs, other credits and discounts thereto, shall be as mutually determined in good faith by the Critical Vendor and the Debtors and in consultation with the Notice Parties (but such amount shall be used only for purposes of the Order and shall not be deemed a claim allowed by the Court, and the rights of all parties in interest to object to such claim shall be fully preserved until further order of the Court);
- (b) The amount of payment toward the Critical Vendor's estimated claim;
- (c) The Critical Vendor's agreement to be bound by the Customary Trade Terms, or such other trade terms as mutually agreed to by the Debtors and such Critical Vendor and in consultation with the Notice Parties;
- (d) The Critical Vendor's agreement to provide goods and services to the Debtors based upon Customary Trade Terms, and the Debtors'

agreement to pay the Critical Vendor postpetition in accordance with such terms in consultation with the Notice Parties;

- (e) The Critical Vendor's agreement not to file or otherwise assert against the Debtors, their estates or their respective assets or property (real or personal) any lien (a "Lien") (regardless of the statute or other legal authority upon which such Lien is asserted) related in any way to any remaining prepetition amounts allegedly owed to the Critical Vendor by the Debtors arising from goods or services provided to the Debtors prior to the Petition Date, and that, to the extent that the Critical Vendor has previously obtained such a Lien, the Critical Vendor shall immediately take all necessary action to release such Lien;
- (f) The Critical Vendor's acknowledgement that it has reviewed the terms and provisions of the Order and consents to be bound thereby;
- (g) The Critical Vendor's agreement that it will not separately assert or otherwise seek payment of any reclamation or Bankruptcy Code section 503(b)(9) claim; and
- (h) If a Critical Vendor who has received payment toward a Critical Vendor Claim subsequently refuses to supply goods or services to the Debtors on Customary Trade Terms, any payments received by the Critical Vendor on account of its Critical Vendor Claim will be deemed to have been in payment of then outstanding postpetition obligations owed to such Critical Vendor, and that such Critical Vendor shall immediately repay to the Debtors any payments received on account of its Critical Vendor Claim to the extent that the aggregate amount of such payments exceed the postpetition obligations then outstanding, without the right of setoff or reclamation.

6. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Debtors may, in consultation with the Notice Parties, reinstate a Trade Agreement if the underlying default under the Trade Agreement is fully cured by the Critical Vendor not later than five (5) business days following the Debtors' notification to the Critical Vendor of such default; or the Debtors, in consultation with the Notice Parties, reach a favorable alternative agreement with the Critical Vendor. The Debtors shall make any Trade Agreements available to the Notice Parties upon request.

7. For the avoidance of doubt and notwithstanding the foregoing, the Debtors

may, in consultation with the Notice Parties, negotiate and agree on Customary Trade Terms with Critical Vendors absent a Trade Agreement.

8. The Debtors' banks shall be and hereby are authorized and directed to receive, process, honor and pay all prepetition and postpetition checks and fund transfers on account of the Critical Vendor Claims that had not been honored and paid as of the Petition Date, provided that sufficient funds are on deposit in the applicable accounts to cover such payments. The Debtors shall be and hereby are authorized to issue new postpetition checks or effect new postpetition fund transfers on account of the Critical Vendor Claims to replace any prepetition checks or fund transfer requests that may be dishonored or rejected.

9. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit, or in any way affect, the Debtors' ability to dispute any Critical Vendor Claim.

10. The authorization granted hereby to pay Critical Vendor Claims shall not create any obligation on the part of the Debtors or their officers, directors, attorneys or agents to pay the Critical Vendor Claims, none of the foregoing persons shall have any liability on account of any decision by the Debtors not to pay a Critical Vendor Claim, and nothing contained in this Final Order shall be deemed to increase, reclassify, elevate to an administrative expense status or otherwise affect the Critical Vendor Claims to the extent they are not paid.

11. Nothing in the Motion, the Interim Order or in this Final Order is intended or should be construed as (a) an admission as to the validity or priority of any claim against the Debtors, (b) a waiver of the Debtors' rights to dispute any claim, including the validity or priority thereof, or (c) an approval or assumption of any agreement, contract or lease whether under section 365(a) of the Bankruptcy Code or otherwise. Likewise, any payment made pursuant to this Final Order is not intended and should not be construed as an admission as to the

validity of any claim or a waiver of the Debtors' rights to subsequently dispute such claim.

12. The Debtors are authorized to take any and all actions necessary effectuate the relief granted herein.

13. The requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6003(b) are satisfied because the relief requested in the Motion is necessary to avoid immediate and irreparable harm to the Debtors.

14. Notwithstanding any applicability of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h), the terms and conditions of this Final Order shall be effective and enforceable immediately upon its entry.

15. Notice of the Motion as provided therein shall be deemed good and sufficient and the requirements of Bankruptcy Rule 6004(a) and the Local Rules are satisfied by such notice.

16. This Court shall retain jurisdiction to hear and determine all matters related to the interpretation or implementation of this Final Order.

Dated: August 21st, 2023
Wilmington, Delaware


LAURIE SELBER SILVERSTEIN
UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY JUDGE