

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-0063V

Filed: October 23, 2017

UNPUBLISHED

PATRICIA HECKMAN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

*Amber Diane Wilson, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Washington, DC, for petitioner.
Douglas Ross, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On January 13, 2017, Patricia Heckman (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine she received on November 12, 2015. Petition at ¶2. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On July 21, 2017, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation. On October 23, 2017, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$53,636.62. This amount is comprised of: a) \$50,000 for pain and suffering; and b) \$3,636.62 for past expenses. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, the undersigned agrees that the identified material fits within this definition, the undersigned will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

with the proffered award. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$53,636.62, comprised of: a) \$50,000 for pain and suffering; and b) \$3,636.62 for past expenses in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Patricia Heckman.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 300aa-15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey

Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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**SECRETARY OF HEALTH
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No. 17-63V (ECF)
CHIEF SPECIAL MASTER
NORA BETH DORSEY

RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

In her July 21, 2017 decision, the Chief Special Master found that a preponderance of the medical evidence indicates that petitioner suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), which was causally related to the flu vaccination she received on November 12, 2015. The parties have now addressed the amount of compensation to be awarded in this case.

I. Compensation

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that a lump sum of \$53,636.62 should be awarded petitioner. This amount is comprised of: a) \$50,000.00 for pain and suffering; and b) \$3,636.62 for past expenses. This lump sum amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).¹ Petitioner agrees.

¹ Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that the compensation provided should be made in the form of a check for \$53,636.62 payable to petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: October 23, 2017