

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-666V

Filed: November 26, 2018

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ROBERT MELI,

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UNPUBLISHED

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Petitioner,

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v.

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Ruling on Entitlement; Table Injury;

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Influenza (“Flu”) Vaccine;

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

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Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”)

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Respondent.

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*Phyllis Widman, Esq.*, Widman Law Firm, LLC, Ocean City, NJ, for petitioner.

*Daniel Principato, Esq.*, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

### **RULING ON ENTITLEMENT<sup>1</sup>**

**Roth**, Special Master:

On May 22, 2017, Robert Meli (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (“the Program”)<sup>2</sup> alleging that he received an influenza vaccination on October 13, 2016, and thereafter suffered from Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”). *See* Petition at 1.

On November 26, 2018, respondent filed a report pursuant to Vaccine Rule 4(c) stating that petitioner’s claim was appropriate for compensation. Resp. Rpt. at 1. Specifically, respondent

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<sup>1</sup> Although this Decision has been formally designated “unpublished,” it will nevertheless be posted on the Court of Federal Claims’s website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). **This means the Decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** However, the parties may object to the Decision’s inclusion of certain kinds of confidential information. Specifically, under Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has fourteen days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, the whole Decision will be available to the public. *Id.*

<sup>2</sup> The Program comprises Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* (hereinafter “Vaccine Act” or “the Act”). Hereafter, individual section references will be to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa of the Act.

agrees with petitioner's claim that he suffered the Table injury of GBS following influenza vaccine. *Id.* at 3. Respondent further states that there is not preponderant evidence that petitioner's GBS was due to a factor unrelated to the vaccination. *Id.* Based on a review of the medical records, respondent states that petitioner has met the applicable statutory requirements by suffering his condition for more than six months and that, therefore, petitioner has satisfied all legal prerequisites for compensation under the Act. *Id.*

A special master may determine whether a petitioner is entitled to compensation based upon the record. A hearing is not required. §300aa-13; Vaccine Rule 8(d). In light of respondent's concession and a review of the record, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to compensation.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Mindy Michaels Roth**

Mindy Michaels Roth  
Special Master