

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1414V

Filed: September 21, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

CHARLES THOMPSON,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Guillain-
Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Alison H. Haskins, Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA, Sarasota, FL, for petitioner.
Darryl R. Wishard, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On October 3, 2017, 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 he suffered Guillain-Barre Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza vaccination on September 8, 2016. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 18, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On September 20, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$180,000.00 compromised of \$160,000.00 for past and future pain and suffering, and \$20,000.00 for past and future unreimbursed expenses. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, respondent represented that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. Based on the record as a

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website,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).

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 \$180,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Charles Thompson.** 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. 17-1414V ECF

Chief Special Master Dorsey

PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION¹

I. Procedural History

On October 3, 2017, Charles Thompson (“petitioner”) filed a petition seeking compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34, *as amended*. Petitioner alleges that, as a result of receipt of an influenza vaccination on September 8, 2016, he suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”), which is an injury listed on the Vaccine Injury Table (“Table”) for the flu vaccine.² Petition at 1. On June 11, 2018, respondent filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) report, conceding entitlement to compensation for a Table injury of GBS. On June 18, 2018, the Chief Special Master issued a ruling on entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation for a Table injury of GBS.

II. Items of Compensation

Petitioner has alleged entitlement to the following elements of compensation: past and

¹ This Proffer does not include attorneys’ fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

² The Table is located at 42 C.F.R. § 100.3.

future pain/suffering, past unreimbursed expenses, and future unreimbursed expense. Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$160,000.00 for past and future pain/suffering, and \$20,000.00 for past and future unreimbursed expenses, for a total of **\$180,000.00**. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

III. Form of the Award

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of **\$180,000.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.³

Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. HUNT
Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D’ALESSIO
Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

CATHARINE E. REEVES
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

³ 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.

/s/Darryl R. Wishard

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Dated: September 20, 2018