

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-1527V

UNPUBLISHED

DEANA KNOWLES,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: January 15, 2020

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

*William E. Cochran, Jr., Black McLaren Jones Ryland & Griffee, P.C., Memphis, TN , for petitioner.*

*Linda Sara Renzi, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES<sup>1</sup>**

On October 3, 2018, Deana Knowles filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered on September 19, 2017. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On November 5, 2019, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On January 15, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$84,313.29. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees

<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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). **This means the ruling will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** 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, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

<sup>2</sup> 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. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$84,313.29 (representing compensation in the amount of \$82,500.00 in pain and suffering and \$1,813.29 in past unreimbursed expenses) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

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

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

**IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

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DEANA KNOWLES,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	No. 18-1527V
	)	Chief Special Master
v.	)	Brian H. Corcoran
	)	ECF
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
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**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

**I. Compensation for Vaccine Injury-Related Items**

On November 4, 2019, respondent filed a Rule 4 (c) Report conceding entitlement in this case. On November 5, 2019, the Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”). Respondent proffers that based on the evidence of record, petitioner should be awarded \$84,313.29, consisting of \$82,500.00 in pain and suffering and \$1,813.29 in past unreimbursed expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1); 15(a)(3)(A); and 15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

**II. Form of the Award**

The parties recommend that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below, and request that the Chief Special Master’s decision and the Court’s judgment award the following:<sup>1</sup>

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

A lump sum payment of \$84,313.29, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Deana Knowles. This amount accounts for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner is entitled.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

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

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ Linda S. Renzi  
LINDA S. RENZI  
Senior Trial Counsel  
Torts Branch, Civil Division  
U.S. Department of Justice  
P.O. Box 146  
Benjamin Franklin Station  
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146  
Tel.: (202) 616-4133

Dated: January 15, 2020

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