

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 11-0865V
(Not to be published¹)



Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES

Respondent.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Filed: September 21, 2012

Decision by Stipulation; Influenza
vaccine; Guillain-Barre Syndrome

DECISION

HASTINGS, Special Master.

This is an action seeking an award under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program² on account of an injury suffered by Mark Webster. On September 20, 2012, counsel for both parties filed a Stipulation, stipulating that a decision should be entered granting compensation. The parties have stipulated that petitioner shall receive the following compensation:

¹ Because this document contains an explanation for my action in this case, I intend to post this document on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). Therefore, as provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction "of any information furnished by that party (1) that is trade secret or commercial or financial information and is privileged or confidential, or (2) that are medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy." Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, this entire document will be available to the public. *Id.*

² The applicable statutory provisions defining the Program are found at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 *et seq.* (2006 ed.). Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all "§" references will be to 42 U.S.C. (2006 ed.).

- A lump sum of \$75,000.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, representing compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

Under the statute governing the Program, as well as the “Vaccine Rules” adopted by this court, the special master must now enter a decision endorsing that stipulation, and the clerk must enter judgment, in order to authorize payment of the award. See § 300aa-12(d)(3)(A) and (e)(3); § 300aa-13(a); Vaccine Rules 10(a), 11(a).³

I have reviewed the file, and based on that review, I conclude that the parties’ stipulation appears to be an appropriate one. Accordingly, my decision is that a Program award shall be made to petitioner in the amount set forth above. In the absence of a timely-filed motion for review of this Decision, the clerk shall enter judgment in accordance herewith.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ George L. Hastings, Jr.
George L. Hastings, Jr.
Special Master

³ The “Vaccine Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims” are found in Appendix B of the Rules of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

)	
)	
Petitioner,)	No. 11-865V
)	Special Master Hastings
v.)	<u>ECF</u>
)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. [REDACTED] petitioner, filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of the influenza ("flu") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).
2. Petitioner received a flu vaccine on October 20, 2010.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that he suffered Guillain-Barré syndrome ("GBS"), which was caused-in-fact by the flu vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that he suffered the residual effects of this injury for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on his behalf as a result of his condition.

6. Respondent denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner's GBS, or any other injury, and further denies that petitioner's current disabilities are sequelae of a vaccine-related injury.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$75,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a prepaid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8, and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9 of this Stipulation, will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the United States Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the flu vaccine administered on October 20, 2010, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about December 8, 2011, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 11-865V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the United States Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in

Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:



ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anna Carrion Toale', written over a horizontal line.

ANNA CARRION TOALE, ESQUIRE
Maglio Christopher & Toale, PA
1605 Main Street
Suite 710
Sarasota, Florida 34236
Tel: (888) 952-5242

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vincent J. Matanoski', written over a horizontal line.

VINCENT J. MATANOSKI
Acting Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U. S. Department of Justice
P. O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146

AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Evans', written over a horizontal line.

GEOFFREY EVANS, M.D.
Director, Division of
Vaccine Injury Compensation
Healthcare Systems Bureau
U. S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Stop 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857

ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa A. Watts', written over a horizontal line.

LISA A. WATTS
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U. S. Department of Justice
P. O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
(202) 616-4099

DATE: 9-20-2012