

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 13-493V

Filed: April 8, 2015

* * * * *		UNPUBLISHED
TERESE WACKROW,	*	
	*	Special Master Hamilton-Fieldman
Petitioner,	*	
	*	Joint Stipulation on Damages;
v.	*	Tetanus-Diphtheria Vaccine;
	*	Guillain- Barré Syndrome;
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	Attorneys' Fees and Costs;
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	Reasonable Amount Requested
	*	To Which Respondent Does Not
Respondent.	*	Object.
* * * * *		

Diana S. Sedar, Maglio Christopher and Toale, PA, Sarasota, FL, for Petitioner.
Justine E. Walters, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D.C., for Respondent.

DECISION¹

On July 19, 2013, Terese Wackrow (“Petitioner”) filed a petition pursuant to the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006). Petitioner alleged that a Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccine administered to her on July 23, 2010 caused her to suffer from Guillain-Barré Syndrome

On April 7, 2015, the parties filed a stipulation in which they state that a decision should be entered awarding compensation and attorneys’ fees. Respondent denies that the Tetanus-Diphtheria (“Td”) vaccination caused any injury to Petitioner. Nevertheless, the parties agree to

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this ruling on the website of the United States Court of Federal Claims, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). 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 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).

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages and attorneys' fees, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulate that Petitioner and her attorney shall receive the following compensation:

- a. **A lump sum of \$35,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner; and**
- b. **A lump sum of \$14,908.00, which amount represents reimbursement of a Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and**

**County Medical Services
County of San Diego
Attn: Eligibility Operations Division
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 446 (MS: 414)
San Diego, California 92101**

Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to County Medical Services. Payments made pursuant to paragraphs 8(a) and 8(b) represent compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

- c. **A lump sum of \$9,327.44 in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and Petitioner's attorney, Diana L. Stadelnikas Sedar, Esq., at Maglio, Christopher & Toale, PA, for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e), and, in compliance with General Order #9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by Petitioner in proceeding on the petition.**

Stipulation ¶ 8.

The undersigned approves the requested amount for Petitioner's compensation and for attorneys' fees. Accordingly, an award should be made consistent with the stipulation.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman
Lisa Hamilton-Fieldman
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is 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

TERESE WACKROW,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 13-493V
Special Master Hamilton-Fieldman
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. 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 Tetanus-diphtheria ("Td") vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a).

2. Petitioner received her Td immunization on July 23, 2010.

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that she suffers from Guillain-Barré syndrome ("GBS") as a result of receiving the Td vaccine.

5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages on her behalf as a result of her condition.

6. Respondent denies that the Td immunization caused petitioner's GBS or any other injury or her current condition.

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 payments:

- a. A lump sum of \$35,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner; and
- b. A lump sum of \$14,908.00, which amount represents reimbursement of a Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and

County Medical Services
County of San Diego
Attn: Eligibility Operations Division
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 446 (MS: 414)
San Diego, California 92101

Petitioner agrees to endorse this check to County Medical Services. Payments made pursuant to paragraphs 8(a) and 8(b) represent compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

- c. A lump sum of \$9,327.44 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and petitioner's attorney, Diana L. Stadelnikas Sedar, Esq. at Maglio, Christopher & Toale, PA, for attorneys' fees and costs available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e), and, in compliance with General Order #9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

9. Petitioner and her attorney represent that compensation to be provided pursuant to this Stipulation is not for any items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), to the extent that payment has been made or can reasonably be expected to be made under any 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 by entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

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

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees, litigation costs, and past unreimbursable expenses, 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).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraph 8, petitioner, in her individual capacity and on behalf of her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or 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 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 Td vaccination administered on July 23, 2010, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about July 19, 2013, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 13-493V.

13. 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.

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

decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties' settlement and this Stipulation shall be voidable at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete negotiated settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to. The parties further agree and understand that the award described in this Stipulation may reflect a compromise of the parties' respective positions as to liability and/or amount of damages, and further, that a change in the nature of the injury or condition or in the items of compensation sought, is not grounds to modify or revise this agreement.

16. This Stipulation shall not be construed as an admission by the United States or the Secretary of Health and Human Services that the Td vaccine caused petitioner's GBS or any other injury or her current condition.

17. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

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Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:

J. Wackrow
TERESE WACKROW

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**

for: Diana L. Stadelnikas Sedar
DIANA L. STADELNIKAS SEDAR, ESQ.
Maglio, Christopher & Toale, PA
1605 Main Street, Suite 710
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 952-5242

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**

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

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**

A. Melissa Houston
A. MELISSA HOUSTON, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP
Director, Division of Injury
Compensation Programs (DICP)
Healthcare Systems Bureau
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:**

Justine Walters
JUSTINE WALTERS
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 307-6393

Dated: April 7, 2015