

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

DUKA BAUMGARTNER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

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No. 15-970V
Special Master Christian J. Moran

Filed: September 28, 2017

Stipulation; influenza (“flu”) vaccine;
dyshidrosis.

Andrew M. Krueger, Krueger & Hernandez SC, Middleton, WI, for Petitioner;
Adriana R. Teitel, United States Dep’t of Justice, Washington, DC, for
Respondent.

UNPUBLISHED DECISION¹

On September 26, 2017, the parties filed a joint stipulation concerning the petition for compensation filed by Duka Baumgartner on September 3, 2015. In her petition, petitioner alleged that the influenza vaccine, which is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. §100.3(a), and which she received on October 9, 2012, caused her to suffer dyshidrosis.² Petitioner further alleges that she suffered the residual effects of this injury for more than six months.

¹ The E-Government Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services), requires that the Court post this decision on its website. Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 18(b), the parties have 14 days to file a motion proposing redaction of medical information or other information described in 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(d)(4). Any redactions ordered by the special master will appear in the document posted on the website.

² As noted in the stipulation, Ms. Baumgartner’s petition initially alleged her injuries as dyshidrosis and “neurological disorders including multiple sclerosis.” Pet. at 1, 3. On December 20, 2016, Ms. Baumgartner filed a status report advising that she would no longer pursue her neurological claims and only proceed on her dermatological claim (dyshidrosis).

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.

Respondent denies that the influenza vaccine caused petitioner to suffer dyshidrosis or any other injury.

Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto. The undersigned finds said stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

Damages awarded in that stipulation include:

A lump sum payment of \$17,500.00 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).

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC, Appendix B, the clerk is directed to enter judgment in case 15-970V according to this decision and the attached stipulation.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Christian J. Moran
Christian J. Moran
Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
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No. 15-970V
Special Master Moran
ECF

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Petitioner Duka Baumgartner (“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 an influenza vaccine (“flu”), which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).

2. Petitioner received her flu immunization on October 9, 2012.

3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.

4. Petitioner alleges that she suffered dyshidrosis that was caused-in-fact by the flu vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of this injury for more than six months.¹

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

¹ In her petition, petitioner alleged that her October 9, 2012 flu vaccine caused her to suffer “dyshidrosis, and neurological disorders including multiple sclerosis.” On December 20, 2016, petitioner conveyed to the Court in a status report that she “would not be proceeding on her neurological claim.”

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's alleged dyshidrosis and its residual effects were caused-in-fact by the flu vaccine. Respondent further denies that the flu vaccine caused petitioner 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 payment:

A lump sum of \$17,500.00 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 her 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 pre-paid basis.

11. Payment 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 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).

13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, 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 flu vaccination administered on October 9, 2012, as alleged by petitioner in her petition for vaccine compensation filed on September 3, 2015, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 15-970V.

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.

Respectfully submitted,


PETITIONER:


DUKA BAUMGARTNER


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Dated: 9/26/2017