

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 16-00250V

Filed: March 31, 2017

CAROLYN LANIER,	*	
	*	
Petitioner,	*	Petitioner’s Motion for a Decision
	*	Dismissing Her Petition; Pneumococcal
v.	*	Conjugate Vaccine; Shoulder Injury;
	*	Insufficient Proof of Causation;
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND	*	Entitlement; Denial Without Hearing
HUMAN SERVICES,	*	Special Processing Unit (“SPU”)
	*	
Respondent.	*	
	*	

Paul r. Brazil, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.
Darryl R. Wishard U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION ¹

Dorsey, Chief Special Master:

On February 22, 2016, Carolyn Lanier (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation *pro se* under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act” or “Program”).³ Mr. Paul Brazil was substituted as petitioner’s counsel on November 21, 2016. Petitioner alleges that she suffered an injury to her right shoulder as a result of a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine she received on October 26, 2015. See Medical Records, pages 1, 8 (ECF No. 1). The information in the record does not show entitlement to an award under the Program.

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims'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

³ The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit (“SPU”) of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 31, 2017, petitioner moved for a decision dismissing her petition, acknowledging that insufficient evidence exists to demonstrate entitlement to compensation. (ECF No. 22). Petitioner indicated in her motion that “[a]n investigation of the facts and science supporting her case ha[s] demonstrated to petitioner that she will be unable to prove that she is entitled to compensation in the Vaccine Program.” *Id.* Petitioner further indicated that she “understands that a decision by the [undersigned] dismissing her petition will result in a judgment against her. [She] has been advised that such a judgment will end all of her rights in the Vaccine Program.” *Id.*

To receive compensation under the Program, petitioner must prove either 1) that she suffered a “Table Injury” – i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to a covered vaccine, or 2) that she suffered an injury that was actually caused by a covered vaccine. See §§ 13(a)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1). Examination of the record does not disclose any evidence that petitioner suffered a “Table Injury.” Further, the record does not demonstrate that petitioner suffered the residual effect of her injury for more than six months nor does it contain a medical expert’s opinion or any other persuasive evidence indicating that petitioner’s alleged injury was vaccine-caused.

Under the Vaccine Act, a petitioner may not be awarded compensation based on the petitioner’s claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by either the medical records or by a medical opinion. § 13(a)(1). In this case, the record does not contain medical records or a medical opinion sufficient to demonstrate that petitioner is entitled to compensation. For these reasons, and in accordance with § 12(d)(3)(A), **petitioner’s claim for compensation is denied and this case is dismissed for insufficient proof. The Clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.**⁴

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
Chief Special Master

⁴ 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.