

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-219V

Filed: September 26, 2017

UNPUBLISHED

RALPH LAGAMMA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Ruling on Entitlement; Concession;  
Causation-In-Fact; Influenza (Flu)  
Vaccine; Shoulder Injury Related to  
Vaccine Administration (SIRVA)

*Amy A. Senerth, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.*

*Daniel Anthony Principato, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

## **RULING ON ENTITLEMENT**<sup>1</sup>

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On February 15, 2017, petitioner 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 he received an influenza vaccine on October 2, 2015, and thereafter suffered from a shoulder injury which was caused-in-fact by the flu vaccine. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On September 22, 2017, respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case. Respondent’s Rule

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<sup>1</sup> Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned intends to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website,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.

<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).

4(c) Report at 1. Specifically, respondent states that the Division of Injury Compensation Programs, Department of Health and Human Services “has concluded that a preponderance of evidence establishes that the injury to petitioner’s left shoulder was caused-in-fact by the administration of the flu vaccine on October 2, 2015 . . . ” *Id.* at 2-3. Respondent further agrees that “petitioner’s injury is not due to factors unrelated to the administration of the flu vaccine, and petitioner has suffered the sequela of her injury for more than six months.” *Id.* at 3.

**In view of respondent’s position and the evidence of record, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to compensation.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**

Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master