

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 17-1368V

Filed: December 7, 2018

UNPUBLISHED

MECHELLE HEAD,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury; Bursitis

*Maximillian J. Muller, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.*

*Ryan Daniel Pyles, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

## **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES**<sup>1</sup>

**Dorsey**, Chief Special Master:

On September 28, 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 she suffered “right shoulder injuries” as a result of her October 11, 2016. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On September 19, 2018, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for bursitis and related sequelae. On December 6, 2018, respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating petitioner should be awarded \$81,000.00. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, respondent represented

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<sup>1</sup> The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website. **This means the decision will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** 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. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website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).

<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).

that petitioner agrees with the proffered award. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer. *Id.*

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **the undersigned awards petitioner a lump sum payment of \$81,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Mechelle Head.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Nora Beth Dorsey**  
Nora Beth Dorsey  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

**THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

MECHELLE HEAD,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 17-1368V

Chief Special Master Nora Beth Dorsey  
ECF

**RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On September 14, 2018, respondent filed his Rule 4(c) Report, in which he recommended that the Court find petitioner entitled to compensation, and on September 19, 2018, the Court entered its Ruling on Entitlement, finding petitioner entitled to compensation. Respondent now proffers that petitioner receive an award of a lump sum of **\$81,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all elements of compensation under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) to which petitioner is entitled.<sup>1</sup>

Petitioner agrees with the proffered award of \$81,000.00.<sup>2</sup>

Respectfully submitted,

JOSEPH H. HUNT  
Assistant Attorney General

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<sup>1</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief. In particular, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

<sup>2</sup> This proffer does not include any award for attorneys' fees and costs that may be awarded pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e).

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Acting Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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s/ RYAN D. PYLES  
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Dated: December 6, 2018