

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

Filed: September 30, 2025

CHRISTOPHER BROWN,	*	PUBLISHED
	*	
Petitioner,	*	No. 18-1074V
	*	
v.	*	Special Master Nora Beth Dorsey
	*	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	*	Damages Award; Pneumococcal
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	*	Conjugate (“Prevnar 13”) Vaccine;
	*	Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”).
Respondent.	*	
	*	

Jessica Anne Olins, mctlaw, Seattle, WA, for Petitioner.
Katherine Carr Esposito, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES BASED ON PROFFER¹

On July 23, 2018, Christopher Brown (“Petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (“Vaccine Act” or “the Program”), 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq. (2018),² alleging that as a result of a pneumococcal conjugate (“Prevnar 13”) vaccine administered on August 18, 2015, he developed peripheral neuropathy and Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”). Petition at ¶¶ 1, 11, 15 (ECF No. 1). On June 23, 2025, the undersigned issued a ruling finding Petitioner entitled to compensation. Ruling on Entitlement dated June 23, 2025 (ECF No. 125).

¹ Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, the undersigned is required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc> in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **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.

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-10 to -34 (2018) (“Vaccine Act” or “the Act”). All citations in this Ruling to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

On September 30, 2025, Respondent filed a Proffer on Award of Compensation (“Proffer”), attached hereto as Appendix A. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. Proffer at 1-2. Based on the record as a whole, the undersigned finds that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, the undersigned awards Petitioner:

- (1) A lump sum payment of \$100,611.43, representing \$100,000.00 in pain and suffering and \$611.43 in past unreimbursable expenses, to be paid through an ACH deposit to Petitioner’s counsel’s IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to Petitioner.**

Proffer at 1-2. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under § 15(a). Id. at 2.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the Clerk of the Court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** herewith.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Nora Beth Dorsey
Nora Beth Dorsey
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**

CHRISTOPHER BROWN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 18-1074V (ECF)
Special Master Dorsey

PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On May 20, 2024, petitioner filed a Memorandum in Support of Petitioner’s Motion for Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law Regarding Entitlement (“Memo”), arguing that he had established entitlement to compensation for Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”) caused by his receipt of a pneumococcal conjugate vaccine administered on August 18, 2015. ECF No. 117. Respondent filed a Response to Petitioner’s Memo on August 23, 2024, recommending that entitlement to compensation be denied. ECF No. 122. On June 23, 2025, the Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner is entitled to compensation.¹ ECF No. 125.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$100,000.00 in pain and suffering.

See 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

¹ Respondent has no objection to the amount of the proffered award of damages set forth herein. Assuming the Special Master issues a damages decision in conformity with this proffer, respondent waives the right to seek review of such damages decision. However, respondent reserves the right, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-12(e), to seek review of the Special Master’s June 23, 2025, entitlement ruling.

B. Past unreimbursable expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that he incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of \$611.43. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B).

Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).² Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment as described below and requests that the Special Master’s decision and the Court’s judgment award the following: a lump sum payment of **\$100,611.43**, to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner’s counsel’s IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

BRETT A. SHUMATE
Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D’ALESSIO
Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

² Should petitioner die prior to the 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 lost earnings, and future pain and suffering.

s/Katherine C. Esposito
Katherine C. Esposito
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
Tel: (202) 305-3774
katherine.esposito@usdoj.gov

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