

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 18-1619V

Filed: October 25, 2019

UNPUBLISHED

KELSEY RATHJEN,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Ruling on Entitlement; Concession;  
Table Injury; Influenza (Flu) Vaccine;  
Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS)

*Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for petitioner.*

*Claudia Barnes Gangi, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.*

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

**Corcoran**, Chief Special Master:

On November 19, 2018, 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 Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) resulting from the influenza vaccination she received on October 19, 2015. Petition at 1, ¶ 1. Petitioner further alleges that her injury meets the Table definition for GBS, that she received the vaccination in the United States, that she suffered the residual effects of her injury for more than six months, that she continues to suffer these effects, and

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<sup>1</sup> I intend 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, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access. Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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 neither she nor any other party has received compensation for her injury alleged as vaccine caused. *Id.* at ¶¶ 1, 3-5. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On October 25, 2019, respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case. Respondent's Rule 4(c) Report at 1. Specifically, "it is respondent's position that petitioner has satisfied the criteria set forth in the Vaccine Injury Table and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation, which afford petitioner a presumption of causation if the onset of GBS occurs between three and forty-two days after a seasonal flu vaccination and there is no apparent alternative cause." *Id.* at 4. Respondent further agrees that "in light of the information contained in petitioner's medical records, respondent concedes that entitlement to compensation is appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act." *Id.* at 5.

**In view of respondent's position and the evidence of record, I find that petitioner is entitled to compensation.**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master