

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-0433V

UNPUBLISHED

KATIE M. MILLER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 16, 2021

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Tetanus Diphtheria acellular
Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine; Brachial
Neuritis

David John Carney, Green & Schafle LLC, Philadelphia, PA, for petitioner.

Mallori Browne Openchowski, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On March 22, 2019, Katie Miller filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (SIRVA), or in the alternative, a “left brachial plexitis,” as a result of a Tdap vaccination administered on April 25, 2016. Petition at *Introduction*. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On November 21, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for brachial neuritis. ECF 36. On February 9, 2021, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$78,056.91, consisting of \$75,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$3,056.91 for

¹ Because this unpublished decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

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).

unreimbursed out of pocket medical expenses. Proffer at 1-2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$78,056.91 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** 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.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ 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.

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

KATIE M. MILLER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 19-433V
Chief Special Master Corcoran
ECF

RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

I. Procedural History and Items of Compensation

On March 22, 2019, Katie Miller (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (“petition”) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), *as amended*, alleging that she suffered a left “Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration,” or in the alternative a “left brachial plexitis,” as the result of a Tetanus-Diphtheria-acellular-pertussis (“Tdap”), vaccination administered on April 25, 2016. *See* Petition at Introduction. On November 20, 2020, respondent filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) report, and conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act for a Table injury for brachial neuritis following Tdap vaccination. ECF No. 35. Thereafter, on November 21, 2020, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her brachial neuritis following Tdap vaccination. ECF No 36. Based on the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$78,056.91, which is comprised of damages for pain and suffering in the amount of \$75,000.00, and damages for unreimbursed out-of-pocket medical expenses in

the amount of \$3,056.91. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).¹ Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of \$78,056.91, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Acting Assistant Attorney General

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

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Acting Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

DARRYL R. WISHARD
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/ Mallori B. Openchowski
MALLORI B. OPENCHOWSKI
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146, Ben Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
Tel.: (202) 305-0660

DATED: February 9, 2021

¹ 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 lost earnings and future pain and suffering.