

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1702V

UNPUBLISHED

COLLEEN HIETPAS
as next friend of C.H., a minor,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 14, 2020

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Ruling on Entitlement; Concession;
Table Injury; Meningococcal Vaccine;
Vasovagal Syncope

John Robert Howie, Howie Law, PC, Dallas, TX, for petitioner.

Robert Paul Coleman, III, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

RULING ON ENTITLEMENT¹

On November 1, 2019, Colleen Hietpas filed a Petition on behalf of her minor daughter, C.H., for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, *et seq.*,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that C.H. suffered a syncopal episode leading to a severe laceration and a fractured mandible as a result of the meningococcal vaccinations administered on July 30, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

¹ Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

On February 12, 2020, 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, Respondent concludes that "C.H. suffered a syncopal episode as set forth in the Vaccine Injury Table ("Table") and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation ("QAI")." *Id.* at 3. Respondent further agrees that "C.H.'s injury resulted in her inpatient hospitalization and a surgical procedure" and that "petitioner has satisfied all legal prerequisites for compensation under the Act." *Id.*

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