

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 19-1895V

UNPUBLISHED

LISA HELFRICH,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: January 7, 2021

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

Kari Elizabeth Panza, R.J. Marzella & Associates, P.C., for Petitioner.

Ida Nassar, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

RULING ON ENTITLEMENT¹

On December 13, 2019, Lisa Helfrich 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 Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine “and/or” a tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis (“Tdap”) vaccine administered to her on August 28, 2018. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 5, 2021, Respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that Petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case as it relates to the flu vaccine. Respondent does not recommend that any compensation be awarded related to administration of the Tdap vaccine. Respondent’s Rule 4(c) Report at 1. Specifically,

¹ Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website in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

Respondent states “(i)t is respondent’s position that petitioner suffered from GBS, and that she has satisfied the criteria set forth in the revised Vaccine Injury Table (Table) and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation (“QAI”), which afford her a presumption of vaccine causation if the onset of GBS occurs between three and forty-two days after a seasonal flu vaccination and there is no more likely alternative diagnosis and no apparent alternative cause. *Id.* at 4-5.

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