

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-1829V

UNPUBLISHED

TARA LEACH,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 6, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Amy A. Senerth, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

Amanda Pasciuto, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On December 11, 2020, Tara Leach 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 left shoulder injuries related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) as a result of an influenza vaccine received on November 8, 2019. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccine was administered in the United States, her injuries and sequelae lasted more than six months, and neither Petitioner nor any other party has ever filed an action or received compensation in the form of an award or settlement for Petitioner’s vaccine-related injuries. Petition at ¶¶ 2, 8-10. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

¹ Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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 section references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

On May 9, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On February 6, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$77,500.00 for pain and suffering and funds to satisfy the State of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien in the amount of \$202.38. 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 the following:**

- **A lump sum payment of \$77,500.00 (for pain and suffering) in the form of a check payable to Petitioner; and**
- **A lump sum payment of \$202.38, representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to Petitioner and**

**Department of Human Services
ATTN: Bryce Antle
Bureau of Program Integrity
Division of Third Party Liability
Recovery Section
P.O. Box 8486
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-8486**

Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to the Department of Human Services for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien.

These amounts represents compensation for all damages that would be available under Section 15(a).

The Clerk of 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**

TARA LEACH,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	No. 20-1829V ECF
)	
v.)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On May 6, 2022, respondent filed a Vaccine Rule 4(c) report concluding that petitioner suffered an injury that is compensable under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 to -34, that is, a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table. Accordingly, on May 9, 2022, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement.

I. Compensation for Vaccine Injury-Related Items

A. Pain and Suffering

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of **\$77,500.00** for pain and suffering, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

B. Medicaid Lien

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded funds to satisfy the State of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien in the amount of **\$202.38**, which represents full satisfaction of any right of subrogation, assignment, claim, lien, or cause of action the State of Pennsylvania may have against any individual as a result of any Medicaid payments the State of Pennsylvania has made to or on behalf of petitioner from the date of her eligibility for benefits through the date of

judgment in this case as a result of her alleged vaccine-related injury suffered on or about November 8, 2019, under Title XIX of the Social Security Act.

The above amounts represent all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through two lump sum payments described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:¹

- A. A lump sum payment of **\$77,500.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner; and
- B. A lump sum payment of **\$202.38**, representing compensation for satisfaction of the State of Pennsylvania Medicaid lien, in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and:

Department of Human Services
ATTN: Bryce Antle
Bureau of Program Integrity
Division of Third Party Liability
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Petitioner agrees to endorse the check to the Department of Human Services for satisfaction of the Medicaid lien.

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

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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 medical expenses, future pain and suffering, and future lost wages.

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HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
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/s/ Amanda Pasciuto
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DATED: February 6, 2023