

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-1830V

UNPUBLISHED

CHRISTINA RAMIREZ,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: October 18, 2022

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.*

*Nina Ren, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES**<sup>1</sup>

On December 11, 2020, Christina Ramirez 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 a Table injury – Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (SIRVA) – as a result of her influenza (“flu”) vaccination on October 3, 2018. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On September 30, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On October 18, 2022, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$70,000.00. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the

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 Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

<sup>2</sup> 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).

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 \$70,000.00 in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount 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.<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**  
Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> 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**

CHRISTINA RAMIREZ,

Petitioner,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 20-1830V  
Chief Special Master Corcoran  
ECF

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**<sup>1</sup>

**I. Procedural History**

On December 11, 2020, petitioner, Christina Ramirez, filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, *as amended* (the “Vaccine Act”), 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34, alleging that she developed a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”), as identified in the Vaccine Injury Table (“Table”), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a), after she received an influenza vaccination on October 3, 2018. *See* Petition.

On September 30, 2022, respondent, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, filed a Rule 4(c) Report, indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Vaccine Act for a SIRVA Table injury, and later that day, on September 30, 2020, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF Nos. 32, 33.

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<sup>1</sup> This Proffer does not include attorneys’ fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

**II. Items of Compensation**

Based on the record evidence, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of **\$70,000.00**, for all damages, including pain and suffering. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a).

Petitioner agrees.

**III. Form of the Award**

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case. Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment, as described below, and requests that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following: a lump sum payment of **\$70,000.00**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>2</sup> Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

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C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
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<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

/s/ NINA Y. REN

NINA Y. REN

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DATED: October 18, 2022