

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 20-1961V

UNPUBLISHED

MICHELE SNYDER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 7, 2023

Special Processing Unit (SPU);  
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;  
Tetanus Diphtheria acellular  
Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine;  
Pneumococcal Conjugate (Prevnar  
13) Vaccine; Bilateral Shoulder Injury  
Related to Vaccine Administration  
(SIRVA)

*Brian L. Cinelli, Schiffmacher Cinelli Adoff LLP, Buffalo, NY, for Petitioner.*

*Jennifer A. Shah, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

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

On December 23, 2020, Michele Snyder 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 bilateral shoulder injuries related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) following the administration of tetanus diphtheria acellular pertussis (“Tdap”) and pneumococcal conjugate (“Prevnar 13”) vaccines on September 11, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

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 Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

On September 12, 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 \$78,165.00. Proffer at 1. 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 \$78,165.00 (consisting of \$77,500.00 for past pain and suffering and \$665.00 for out-of-pocket expenses) 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**

MICHELE SNYDER,

Petitioner,

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

No. 20-1961V  
Chief Special Master Corcoran  
SPU

**RESPONDENT’S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION**

On December 23, 2020, Michele Snyder (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation (“Petition”) under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to –34, as amended (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered bilateral Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”) caused by tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis and pneumococcal conjugate vaccinations administered on September 11, 2019. Petition at 1.

On September 9, 2022, respondent filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) report, recommending that compensation be awarded. ECF No. 31. On September 12, 2022, this Court issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 33.

**I. Items of Compensation**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded **\$78,165.00**, consisting of \$77,500.00 for past pain and suffering and \$665.00 for out-of-pocket expenses. This represents 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**

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<sup>1</sup>: a lump sum payment of **\$78,165.00**, representing compensation for all elements of economic and noneconomic damages, in the form of a check payable to petitioner, Michele Snyder.

**III. Summary of Recommended Payment Following Judgment**

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Michele Snyder: **\$78,165.00.**

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

C. SALVATORE D'ALESSIO  
Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

DARRYL R. WISHARD  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

*s/ Jennifer A. Shah*

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Dated: February 6, 2023