

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-256V

UNPUBLISHED

JENNIFER SOHMER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: July 8, 2022

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

*Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for Petitioner.*

*Mark Kim Hellie, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

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

On January 7, 2021, Jennifer Sohmer 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 shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (SIRVA), resulting from the adverse effects of an influenza (flu) vaccination she received on September 24, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On June 24, 2022, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for SIRVA. On July 7, 2022, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$69,695.99, comprised of \$67,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$2,195.99 for unreimbursed medical expenses.

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 Because this unpublished Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

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 \$69,695.99, comprised of \$67,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$2,195.99 for unreimbursed medical 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**

JENNIFER SOHMER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH  
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Case No. 21-265V (ECF)  
CHIEF SPECIAL MASTER  
CORCORAN

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

**I. Procedural History**

On June 23, 2022, respondent filed his Rule 4(c) Report conceding that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. ECF No. 23. On June 24, 2022, the Court issued its Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner is entitled to compensation. ECF No. 25.

**II. Items of Compensation and Form of the Award**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$69,695.99. The award is comprised of the following: \$67,500.00 for pain and suffering and \$2,195.99 for unreimbursed medical expenses. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under

42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) regarding her September 24, 2019, influenza vaccination.

Petitioner agrees.<sup>1</sup>

**III. Form of the Award**

Respondent recommends that the compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment of \$69,695.99, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

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

Respectfully submitted,

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

*s/ Mark K. Hellie*

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