

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-764V

UNPUBLISHED

MARIO GARCIA,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: November 23, 2022

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

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

Kyle Edward Pozza, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

RULING ON ENTITLEMENT¹

On January 19, 2021, Mario Garcia 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 he suffered Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) and Bell’s Palsy as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to him on January 18, 2018. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that he suffered the residual effects of his injury for more than six months, and that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action on his behalf as a result of his injury. Petition ¶¶ 6-7. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

¹ Because this unpublished Ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website in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

On November 18, 2022, Respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that Petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case for his GBS injury following administration of the flu vaccine.³ Respondent's Rule 4(c) Report at 1. Specifically, Respondent indicates that

[me]dical personnel at the Division of Injury Compensation Programs, Department of Health and Human Services ("DICP"), have reviewed the petition and medical records filed in the case. It is respondent's position that petitioner has satisfied the criteria set forth in the Vaccine Injury Table ("Table") and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation ("QAI").

Id. at 7 (citing 42 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(a)(XIV)(D), 100.3(c)(15)). Respondent further provides that the "scope of damages to be awarded is limited to petitioner's GBS and its related sequelae only". *Id.*

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

³ Respondent "specifically denies that the flu vaccine caused-in-fact petitioner's Bell's Palsy." Respondent's Rule 4(c) Report at 1, n. 1. Petitioner has elected to pursue compensation for his GBS claim alone. Informal Communication dated November 23, 2022.