

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-909V

UNPUBLISHED

BRENDA WHITE,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 9, 2021

Motion for decision; Dismissal;  
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder  
Injury Related to Vaccine  
Administration (SIRVA)

*Leigh Finfer*, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.

*Heather L. Pearlman*, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

## DECISION<sup>1</sup>

On February 10, 2021, Brenda White filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa—10 through 34,<sup>2</sup> (the “Vaccine Act”). Ms. White alleged that she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) from an influenza vaccine she received on November 6, 2019. ECF no. 1.

On May 24, 2021, Ms. White filed a motion for a decision dismissing her petition. ECF no. 9. For the reasons set forth below, Ms. White’s motion is **GRANTED**, and this case is **DISMISSED**.

In her petition, Ms. White alleged that she received an influenza vaccination but did not otherwise detail any of her symptoms or medical treatment. ECF no. 1. The February 11, 2021 PAR Initial Order required Ms. White to file all the statutorily required

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<sup>1</sup> Although I have not formally designated this Decision for publication, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website because it contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, 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 “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

documents, including medical records documenting the onset of the injury. ECF No. 5. On May 20, 2021, Ms. White some medical records.

On May 21, 2021, Ms. White filed a motion for a decision dismissing her petition stating that she is “unable to show onset of SIRVA symptoms within forty-eight (48) hours of vaccination.” ECF no. 9.

To receive compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, a petitioner must prove either 1) that the vaccinee suffered a “Table Injury” – i.e., an injury falling within the Vaccine Injury Table – corresponding to one of the vaccinations, or 2) that the vaccinee suffered an injury that was actually caused by a vaccine. See §§ 300aa—13(a)(1)(A) and 11(c)(1). Ms. White alleged that she sustained a SIRVA Table Injury.

Under the Vaccine Act, a petitioner may not receive compensation based solely on the petitioner’s claims alone. Rather, the petition must be supported by either medical records or by the opinion of a competent physician. § 300aa—13(a)(1). For a Table Injury, among other requirements, a petitioner must establish with supporting documentation that she received a covered vaccine, that she sustained a covered injury, and that she either suffered the effects of this injury for at least six months or the injury resulted in inpatient hospitalization and surgical intervention. § 300aa—11(c)(1). Ms. White admitted in her motion for a decision that she will not be able to establish the onset of the injury within the Table’s timeframe and, therefore, is not able to prove her entitlement to compensation. Moreover, the record does not support the alleged onset.

Thus, Petitioner has failed to establish entitlement to compensation in the Vaccine Program. **This case is dismissed for insufficient proof. The clerk shall enter judgment accordingly.**<sup>3</sup>

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

**s/Brian H. Corcoran**

Brian H. Corcoran  
Chief Special Master

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<sup>3</sup> If Petitioner wishes to bring a civil action, she must file a notice of election rejecting the judgment pursuant to § 21(a) “not later than 90 days after the date of the court’s final judgment.”