

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**  
**No. 21-1947V**

DEAN HUTCHENS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: August 17, 2023

*Jeffrey S. Pop, Jeffrey S. Pop & Associates, Beverly Hills, CA, for Petitioner.*

*Felicia Langel, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

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

On October 1, 2021, Dean Hutchens 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 he suffered a Table Injury – Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) – as the result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to him on November 22, 2019. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On April 25, 2023, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for GBS. On August 16, 2023, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$137,500.00 in pain and suffering. Proffer at 1. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with

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<sup>1</sup> Because this Decision contains a reasoned explanation for the action taken in this case, it must be made publicly accessible and will be posted on the United States Court of Federal Claims' website, and/or at <https://www.govinfo.gov/app/collection/uscourts/national/cofc>, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2018) (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 (2018).

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 \$137,500.00 (in pain and suffering) 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  
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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
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No. 21-1947V  
Chief Special Master Corcoran  
ECF

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

On October 1, 2021, Dean Hutchens (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act. *See* 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34, as amended (“Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that he suffered from Guillain-Barré syndrome (“GBS”), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table (“Table”), following the administration of the influenza (“flu”) vaccine on November 22, 2019. 42 C.F.R. § 100.3(a)(XIV)(D); Petition at 1. On April 21, 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (“respondent”) filed an amended Rule 4(c) report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Vaccine Act for a GBS Table injury. ECF No. 25. On April 25, 2023, the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation. ECF No. 26.

**I. Items of Compensation**

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$137,500.00 in pain and suffering. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is 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 \$137,500.00, in the form of a check payable to petitioner.

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

Lump sum payable to petitioner, Dean Hutchens: **\$137,500.00**

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

TRACI R. PATTON  
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/ Felicia D. Langel  
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DATED: August 16, 2023