

# In the United States Court of Federal Claims

## OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 21-2014V

UNPUBLISHED

TERESA KNOWLES,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: May 31, 2023

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

*Todd Rayan, Althausser Rayan Abbarno, LLP, Centralia, WA, for Petitioner.*

*Debra A. Filteau Begley, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

### **RULING ON ENTITLEMENT**<sup>1</sup>

On October 13, 2021, Teresa Knowles 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 Guillain-Barre Syndrome (GBS), resulting from an influenza vaccination she received on October 4, 2018. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccination was administered within the United States, her symptoms persisted for more than six months, and neither Petitioner, nor any other party, has ever filed any action or received compensation in the form of an award or settlement for Petitioner’s vaccine-related injury. Petition at 1, 3. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this Ruling 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 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.

<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 May 18, 2023, Respondent filed his Rule 4(c) report in which he concedes that Petitioner is entitled to compensation in this case. Respondent's Rule 4(c) Report at 1. Specifically, Respondent "[P]etitioner has satisfied the criteria set forth in the Vaccine Injury Table ('Table') and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation ('QAI'), which affords [P]etitioner a presumption of causation if the diagnostic criteria for GBS are met, the onset of GBS occurs between three and forth-two days after a seasonal flu vaccination, and there is no apparent alternative cause." *Id.* at 7 citing 42 C.F.R. §§ 100.3(a)(XIV)(D), 100.3(c)(15). Respondent further agrees 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