

**In the United States Court of Federal Claims**  
**OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**  
**No. 22-235V**

MAISE JOHNSON,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: February 7, 2024

*Laura Levenberg, Muller Brazil, PA, Dresher, PA, for Petitioner.*

*Joseph Adam Lewis, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.*

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

On March 2, 2022, Maise Johnson 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”) as a result of an influenza (“flu”) vaccine administered to her on December 13, 2020. Pet. at 1, ECF No. 1. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccine was received in the United States, she suffered sequela of her injury for more than six months, and neither Petitioner nor any other party has ever received compensation in the form of an award or settlement for her vaccine-related injury. *Id.* at 1-2. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On February 5, 2024, a Ruling on Entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. ECF No. 34. On February 7, 2024, Respondent

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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).

filed a Proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$43,000.00 in pain and suffering. Proffer at 2, ECF No. 36. 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 \$43,000.00 for 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  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS**

MAISE JOHNSON,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	No. 22-235V ECF
	)	
v.	)	Chief Special Master Corcoran
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
	)	

**PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION<sup>1</sup>**

**I. Procedural History**

On March 2, 2022, Maise Johnson (“petitioner”) filed a petition for compensation under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (“Vaccine Act” or “Act”), as amended. Petitioner alleges that an influenza (“flu”) vaccination administered on December 13, 2020, caused her to suffer a left shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”). Petition (“Pet.”) at 1. On October 30, 2023, the Chief Special Master issued Findings of Fact, finding “the flu vaccine alleged as causal was more likely than not administered in [p]etitioner’s left shoulder.” ECF No. 25 at 2. On February 5, 2024, respondent filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) Report, preserving his right to appeal the Chief Special Master’s October 30, 2023, Findings of Fact, and submitting that petitioner otherwise satisfied the criteria set forth in the Vaccine Injury Table and the Qualifications and Aids to Interpretation (“QAI”) for SIRVA. *See* 42 C.F.R §§ 100.3(a)(XIV) and (c)(10). ECF No. 32. The same day, Chief

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<sup>1</sup> This Proffer does not include attorneys’ fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

Special Master Corcoran issued a ruling on entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to compensation for a SIRVA Table injury. ECF No. 34.

**II. Items of Compensation**

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded a lump sum of **\$43,000.00** for past pain and suffering. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner is entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

**III. Form of the Award**

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: A lump sum payment of **\$43,000.00** in the form of a check payable to petitioner.<sup>2</sup> Petitioner agrees.

Respectfully submitted,

BRIAN M. BOYNTON  
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General

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Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN  
Deputy Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

JULIA M. COLLISON  
Assistant Director  
Torts Branch, Civil Division

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<sup>2</sup> Should petitioner die prior to entry of judgment, respondent would oppose any award for future medical expenses, future lost earnings, and future pain and suffering, and the parties reserve the right to move the Court for appropriate relief.

s/ Joseph A. Lewis  
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