In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 22-818V

SCOTT CHOVANEC,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: June 20, 2025

Ronald Craig Homer, Conway, Homer, P.C., Boston, MA, for Petitioner.

Jay Travis Williamson, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES[1]

On July 27, 2022, Scott Chovanec 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 from a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration ("SIRVA") as a result of an influenza ("flu") vaccination administered to him on September 3, 2021. Pet., ECF No. 1. Petitioner further alleges that the vaccine was received in the United States, he suffered sequela of his 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 his vaccine-related injury. *Id.* The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On July 1, 2024, a Ruling on Entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for his SIRVA. ECF No. 55. On June 18, 2025, Respondent filed a Proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating Petitioner should be awarded $57,500.00

[1] 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.

[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 (2018).

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in pain and suffering and $91.92 in past unreimbursable expenses. Proffer at 1-2, ECF No. 75. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *See 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 $57,591.92 for pain and suffering and past unreimbursable expenses to be paid through an ACH deposit to Petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement 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.[3]

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran
Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

[3] 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

SCOTT CHOVANEC, Petitioner, v. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Respondent.	No. 22-818V Chief Special Master Corcoran ECF

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On July 27, 2022, Scott Chovanec ("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"), alleging that he suffered a Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration ("SIRVA"), as defined in the Vaccine Injury Table, following administration of an influenza vaccination received on September 3, 2021. Petition at 1. On July 1, 2024, the Secretary of Health and Human Services ("respondent") filed a Rule 4(c) Report indicating that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a SIRVA Table injury; the Chief Special Master issued a Ruling on Entitlement finding petitioner entitled to compensation the same day. ECF No. 53; ECF No. 55.

I. Items of Compensation

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded $57,500.00 in pain and suffering. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(4). Petitioner agrees.

B. Past Unreimbursable Expenses

Evidence supplied by petitioner documents that he incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to his vaccine-related injury. Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded past unreimbursable expenses in the amount of $91.92. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a)(1)(B). Petitioner agrees.

These amounts represent 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[1]: a lump sum payment of **$57,591.92**, through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner.

Respectfully submitted,

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Civil Division

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

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

[1] 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, unreimbursed expenses, future lost earnings and future pain and suffering.

LARA A. ENGLUND
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

/s/ J. Travis Williamson
by Crystal R. Fialkowski
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Dated: June 18, 2025