

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 23-259V

ANDREA WALKER,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: March 28, 2024

Catherine W. Costigan, Maglio, Christopher & Toale, Washington, DC, for Petitioner.

Neil Bhargava, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

RULING ON ENTITLEMENT¹

On February 22, 2023, Andrea Walker 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 she suffered a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration (“SIRVA”) after receiving an influenza (“flu”) vaccination on October 14, 2021. Petition at 1. Petitioner further alleges she suffered a SIRVA within forty-eight hours after the administration of her flu vaccination and that her continued shoulder problems are a sequela of her SIRVA injury, that her SIRVA persisted for more than six months, that the vaccination was administered in within the United States, and that neither she, nor any other party, has every filed any action or received compensation in the form of an

¹ 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.

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).

award or settlement for Petitioner's vaccine-related injury. Petition at 5. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On March 28, 2024, 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 states that Petitioner had no history of pain, inflammation, or dysfunction of her left shoulder prior to vaccination; pain occurred within 48 hours after receipt of an intramuscular vaccination; pain was limited to the shoulder in which the vaccine was administered; and no other condition or abnormality has been identified to explain Petitioner's shoulder pain. *Id.* at 4. Respondent further agrees that Petitioner suffered the residual effects of her condition for more than six months and therefore, based on the record as it now stands, Petitioner has satisfied all legal prerequisites for compensation under the Act. *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