In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 24-1512V

HYUNKEUN JOO, Petitioner, v. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Respondent.	Chief Special Master Corcoran Filed: January 22, 2026

Leah VaSahnja Durant, Law Offices of Leah V. Durant, PLLC, Washington, DC, for Petitioner.

James Vincent Lopez, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for Respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES[1]

On September 27, 2024, Hyunkeun Joo 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 a shoulder injury related to vaccine administration ("SIRVA") following an influenza vaccination he received on October 13, 2021. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 5, 2026, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for his SIRVA. On January 21, 2026, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation ("Proffer") indicating Petitioner should be awarded $90,225.41, comprised of $90,000.00 for pain and suffering and $225.41 for past unreimbursable expenses. Proffer at 2. In the Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with

[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).

AUTHENTICATED U.S. GOVERNMENT INFORMATION GPO

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 $90,225.41, comprised of $90,000.00 for pain and suffering and $225.41 for 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

HYUNKEUN JOO, Petitioner, v. SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Respondent.	No. 24-1512V Chief Special Master Corcoran ECF

PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION[1]

On September 27, 2024, Hyunkeun Joo ("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, 42 C.F.R. § 100.3, as the result of an influenza ("flu") vaccination received on October 13, 2021. Petition at 1. On January 2, 2026, the Secretary of Health and Human Services ("respondent") filed his Vaccine Rule 4(c) report, concluding that this case is appropriate for compensation under the terms of the Act for a Table SIRVA injury. *See* ECF No. 26. On January 5, 2026, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a ruling on entitlement, finding petitioner entitled to compensation for a Table SIRVA injury. *See* ECF No. 27.

I. Items of Compensation

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded

[1] This Proffer does not include attorneys' fees and costs, which the parties intend to address after the Damages Decision is issued.

the following:

A. Pain and Suffering

Respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded **$90,000.00** 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 **$225.41**. *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

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through a lump sum payment, as described below, and request that the Chief Special Master's decision and the Court's judgment award the following:[2]

> A lump sum payment of **$90,225.41** to be paid through an ACH deposit to petitioner's counsel's IOLTA account for prompt disbursement to petitioner, Hyunkeun Joo.
>
> Petitioner is a competent adult. Proof of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BRETT A. SHUMATE
Assistant Attorney General

JONATHAN D. GUYNN
Acting Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

[2] 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.

HEATHER L. PEARLMAN
Deputy Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

VORIS E. JOHNSON
Assistant Director
Torts Branch, Civil Division

s/ James V. Lopez
James V. Lopez
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch, Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146, Ben Franklin Station
Washington, D.C. 20044-0146
Tel: (202) 616-3655
Email: james.lopez@usdoj.gov

DATED: January 21, 2026