

In the United States Court of Federal Claims

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 11-786V

Filed: November 2, 2012

ARTURO RODRIGUEZ,

*

UNPUBLISHED

*

Petitioner,

*

Joint Stipulation on
Damages; influenza (flu)
vaccine; Guillain-Barré
Syndrome (GBS)

*

v.

*

*

SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES,

*

*

*

Respondent.

*

Erin Juzapavicus, Jacksonville, FL, for petitioner.

Alexis Babcock, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION¹

On November 22, 2011, Arturo Rodriguez (petitioner), filed a petition for compensation, alleging that he suffered from Guillain-Barré Syndrome (“GBS”) as a result of receiving an influenza vaccination on October 7, 2010. Petitioner alleges that he experienced the residual effects of his injuries for more than six months and he seeks an award under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program.² 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-

¹ Because this decision contains a reasoned explanation for the undersigned’s action in this case, the undersigned intends to post this ruling on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 205, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (codified as amended at 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2006)). As provided by Vaccine Rule 18(b), each party has 14 days within which to request redaction “of any information furnished by that party: (1) that is a trade secret or commercial or financial in substance and is privileged or confidential; or (2) that includes medical files or similar files, the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b).

² The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program is set forth in Part 2 of the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755, codified as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-1 to -34 (2006) (Vaccine Act or the Act). All

1 to -34 (2006).

On November 2, 2012, counsel for both parties filed a stipulation, stating that a decision should be entered awarding compensation.

Respondent denies that petitioner's GBS was caused-in-fact by his influenza vaccination, and denies that the vaccine caused any other injury or his current condition. Nevertheless, the parties agree to the joint stipulation, attached hereto as Appendix A. The undersigned finds the stipulation reasonable and adopts it as the decision of the Court in awarding damages, on the terms set forth therein.

The parties stipulated that petitioner shall receive the following compensation: "A lump sum of \$ 100,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a)." Stipulation ¶ 8.

The undersigned approves the requested amount for petitioner's compensation. Accordingly, an award should be made consistent with the stipulation.

In the absence of a motion for review filed pursuant to RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of the court **SHALL ENTER JUDGMENT** in accordance with the terms of the parties' stipulation.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/ Patricia E. Campbell-Smith
Patricia E. Campbell-Smith
Chief Special Master

citations in this decision to individual sections of the Vaccine Act are to 42 U.S.C.A. § 300aa.

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment is 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

ARTURO RODRIGUEZ,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	No. 11-786V
)	Chief Special Master
SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND)	Campbell-Smith
HUMAN SERVICES,)	ECF
)	
Respondent.)	

STIPULATION

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. On November 22, 2011, Arturo Rodriguez ("petitioner") filed a petition for vaccine compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10 to 34 (the "Vaccine Program"). The petition seeks compensation for injuries allegedly related to petitioner's receipt of the influenza vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the "Table"), 42 C.F.R. § 100.3 (a).
2. Petitioner received an influenza immunization on October 7, 2010.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that he suffered from Guillain- Barre Syndrome ("GBS"), which was caused-in-fact by his influenza vaccination. Petitioner further alleges that he experienced residual effects of this injury for more than six months.
5. Petitioner represents that there has been no prior award or settlement of a civil action for damages as a result of his GBS.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's GBS was caused-in-fact by his influenza vaccination, and denies that the vaccine caused any other injury or his current condition.

7. Maintaining their above-stated positions, the parties nevertheless now agree that the issues between them shall be settled and that a decision should be entered awarding the compensation described in paragraph 8 of this Stipulation.

8. As soon as practicable after an entry of judgment reflecting a decision consistent with the terms of this Stipulation, and after petitioner has filed an election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), the Secretary of Health and Human Services will issue the following vaccine compensation payment:

A lump sum of \$100,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under 42 U.S.C. §300aa-15(a).

9. As soon as practicable after the entry of judgment on entitlement in this case, and after petitioner has filed both a proper and timely election to receive compensation pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-21(a)(1), and an application, the parties will submit to further proceedings before the special master to award reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Petitioner and his attorney represent that they have identified to respondent all known sources of payment for items or services for which the Program is not primarily liable under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g), including State compensation programs, insurance policies, Federal or State health benefits programs (other than Title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. § 1396 et seq.)), or entities that provide health services on a pre-paid basis.

11. Payments made pursuant to paragraph 8, and any amounts awarded pursuant to paragraph 9, of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject

to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

12. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorney's fees, litigation costs and past unreimbursable expenses, the money provided pursuant to this Stipulation will be used solely for the benefit of petitioner as contemplated by a strict construction of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a) and (d), and subject to the conditions of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(g) and (h).

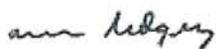
13. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, in his individual capacity, and on behalf of his heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever irrevocably and unconditionally release, acquit and discharge the United States and the Secretary of Health and Human Services from any and all actions or causes of action (including agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature) that have been brought, could have been brought, or could be timely brought in the Court of Federal Claims, under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-10 et seq., on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown, suspected or unsuspected personal injuries to or death of petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the influenza vaccination administered on October 7, 2010, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about November 22, 2011, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 11-786V.

14. If petitioner should die prior to entry of judgment, this agreement shall be voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

15. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation or if the Court of Federal Claims fails to enter judgment in conformity with a decision that is in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, then the parties'

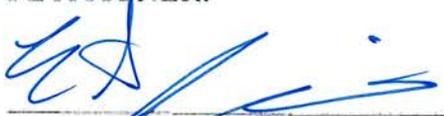
Respectfully submitted,

PETITIONER:



ARTURO RODRIGUEZ

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
PETITIONER:**



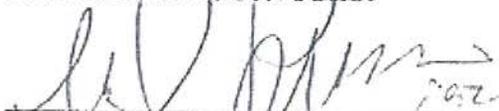
ERIN A. JUZAPAVICUS
Attorney for Petitioner
Milam Howard, P.A.
14 East Bay Street
Jacksonville, FL 32202
(904) 357-3660

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL:**



VINCENT J. MATANOSKI
Acting Deputy Director
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146

**AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN SERVICES:**



GEOFFREY EVANS, M.D.
Director, Division of
Vaccine Injury Compensation
Healthcare Systems Bureau
U.S. Department of Health
and Human Services
5600 Fishers Lane
Parklawn Building, Mail Stop 11C-26
Rockville, MD 20857

Dated: 11/2/12

**ATTORNEY OF RECORD FOR
RESPONDENT:**



ALEXIS B. BABCOCK
Trial Attorney
Torts Branch
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
P.O. Box 146
Benjamin Franklin Station
Washington, DC 20044-0146
(202) 616-7678