

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS

OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

(Filed: May 13, 2008)

DO NOT PUBLISH

JUDITH M. GARCIA,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
v.	)	No. 07-0767V
	)	Tetanus-diphtheria (Td) Vaccine;
SECRETARY OF	)	Stipulation
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

DECISION DIRECTING ENTRY OF JUDGMENT<sup>1</sup>

Petitioner, Judith M. Garcia (Ms. Garcia), seeks compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (Program).<sup>2</sup> In a petition that she filed on November 1, 2007, Ms. Garcia alleges that she suffered “injuries to her upper extremities and joint pain, which were ‘caused-in-fact’ by” a tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccination that she received on March 7, 2005. Petition (Pet.) at 1. In the alternative, Ms. Garcia alleges that she suffered “the significant aggravation of any underlying condition she may have had prior to vaccination, which was ‘caused-in-fact’ by” her March 7, 2005 Td vaccination. *Id.*

Respondent denies that Ms. Garcia sustained a vaccine-related injury. *See, e.g.*, Stipulation (Stipulation), filed May 12, 2008, ¶ 6. Nevertheless, on May 12, 2008, the parties filed a Stipulation.

<sup>1</sup> 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 trade secret or commercial or financial information and is privileged or confidential, or (2) that are medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of privacy.” Vaccine Rule 18(b). Otherwise, “the entire decision” will be available to the public. *Id.*

<sup>2</sup> The statutory provisions governing the Vaccine Program are found in 42 U.S.C. §§ 300aa-10 *et seq.* For convenience, further reference will be to the relevant section of 42 U.S.C.

*See* Stipulation. The special master has reviewed thoroughly the Stipulation. He adopts completely the Stipulation. Therefore, in the absence of a motion for review filed under RCFC Appendix B, the clerk of court shall enter judgment based upon the Stipulation in Ms. Garcia's favor. Under Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties may expedite entry of judgment by filing a joint notice renouncing the right to seek review. Then, under Vaccine Rule 12(a), Ms. Garcia may expedite payment by filing an election to accept the judgment.

s/John F. Edwards  
John F. Edwards  
Special Master

IN THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS  
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

_____	)	
JUDITH M. GARCIA,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	No. 07-767V
v.	)	Special Master Edwards
	)	
SECRETARY OF HEALTH	)	
AND HUMAN SERVICES,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	
_____	)	

**STIPULATION**

The parties hereby stipulate to the following matters:

1. Judith M. Garcia (“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 sustained following petitioner’s receipt of a tetanus toxoid-diphtheria (“Td”) vaccine, which vaccine is contained in the Vaccine Injury Table (the “Table”) at 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-14(a)(I) and 42 C.F.R. §100.3(a)(I).
2. On March 7, 2005, petitioner received a Td vaccine.
3. The vaccine was administered within the United States.
4. Petitioner alleges that, the day following her vaccination, she experienced pain at the injection site that spread to her upper extremities, which petitioner alleges was caused-in-fact by the Td vaccine. Petitioner further alleges that she experienced the residual effects of her 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 her condition.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's injury and alleged residual effects were caused-in-fact by the Td vaccine.

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 \$25,000.00 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 attorneys' fees and costs incurred in proceeding upon this petition.

10. Any payment made pursuant to paragraphs 8 and 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.

11. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that 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).

12. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8 and 9, petitioner, on behalf of herself and her heirs, executors, administrators, successors or assigns, does forever and fully expressly release, acquit and discharge the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the United States of America from any and all actions, causes of action, agreements, judgments, claims, damages, loss of services, expenses and all demands of whatever kind or nature on account of, or in any way growing out of, any and all known or unknown personal injuries to, or death of, petitioner resulting from, or alleged to have resulted from, the Td vaccine administered on March 7, 2005, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about November 1, 2007, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 07-767V.

13. If petitioner should die prior to receiving the payment described in paragraph 8, this agreement shall be considered voidable upon proper notice to the Court on behalf of either or both of the parties.

14. If the special master fails to issue a decision in complete conformity with the terms of this Stipulation, or in the event 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' settlement and this Stipulation shall be null and void at the sole discretion of either party.

15. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete settlement of liability and damages claimed under the National Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended, except as otherwise noted in paragraph 9, above. There is absolutely no agreement on the part of the parties hereto to make any payment or to do any act or thing other than is herein expressly stated and clearly agreed to.

16. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to petitioner's successors and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION

Respectfully submitted,

**PETITIONER:**

Judith M Garcia  
JUDITH M. GARCIA

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