

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS

No. 07-0077V
Filed: August 6, 2008

NOT TO BE PUBLISHED

LATRISHA RUMENSKY,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
v.)	Stipulation; Trivalent Influenza
)	Vaccine; Guillain Barré Syndrome;
SECRETARY OF)	Attorney's fees and costs
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	

DECISION¹

On August 5, 2008, the parties to above captioned case filed a Stipulation memorializing their agreement as to the appropriate amount of compensation and attorney's fees and costs in this case. Petitioner alleged that she sustained the first symptom or manifestation of the onset of Guillain Barré Syndrome ("GBS") after receipt of a trivalent influenza ("flu") vaccine. Respondent denies that petitioner suffered the onset of GBS and any alleged residual effects as a result of her flu vaccine. Nonetheless, the parties have agreed informally to resolve this matter.

The court hereby **adopts** the parties' said Stipulation, attached hereto, and awards compensation in the amount and on the terms set forth therein. Specifically, petitioner is awarded a lump sum of \$50,000.00 in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Additionally, the petitioner is awarded a lump sum of \$38,500.00 in the form of a check payable jointly to

¹The undersigned intends to post this decision on the United States Court of Federal Claims's website, in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002, Pub. L. No. 107-347, 116 Stat. 2899, 2913 (Dec. 17, 2002). 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.

petitioner and her counsel, David L. Terzian of Rawls & McNelis, P.C., in attorneys' fees and costs.² The Clerk of the Court is directed to enter judgment accordingly.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Gary J. Golkiewicz
Gary J. Golkiewicz
Chief Special Master

²This amount is intended to cover all legal expenses. This award encompasses all charges by the attorney against a client, "advanced costs" as well as fees for legal services rendered. Furthermore, 42 U.S.C.A. §300aa-15(e)(3) prevents an attorney from charging or collecting fees (including costs) which would be in addition to the amount awarded herein. See generally, Beck v. Secretary of HHS, 924 F.2d 1029 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), the parties can expedite entry of judgment by each party filing a notice renouncing the right to seek review by a United States Court of Federal Claims judge.

6. Respondent denies that petitioner's GBS and alleged residual effects were caused-in-fact by the flu 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 payments:

(a) A lump sum of \$50,000.00 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); and,

(b) A lump sum of \$38,500.00 in the form of a check payable jointly to petitioner and her counsel, David L. Terzian of Rawls & McNelis, P.C., for all attorneys' fees and costs that would be available under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(e), and, in compliance with General Order #9, no out-of-pocket expenses were incurred by petitioner in proceeding on the petition.

9. Any payments made pursuant to paragraph 8 of this Stipulation will be made in accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(i), subject to the availability of sufficient statutory funds.

10. The parties and their attorneys further agree and stipulate that, except for any award for attorneys' fees and litigation costs, 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).

11. In return for the payments described in paragraphs 8(a) and (b), petitioner 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 flu vaccination administered on October 19, 2004, as alleged by petitioner in a petition for vaccine compensation filed on or about January 30, 2007, in the United States Court of Federal Claims as petition No. 07-77V.

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

13. 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.

14. This Stipulation expresses a full and complete settlement of liability and damages, including attorneys' fees and costs, claimed in this matter by petitioner under the National Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, as amended. 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.

15. All rights and obligations of petitioner hereunder shall apply equally to

petitioner's heirs, successors and/or assigns.

END OF STIPULATION